

**Statement by  
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Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons  
8-9 December 2014

Chairperson,

Security cannot be based on Weapons of Mass Destruction. The mere existence of nuclear weapons and other WMD's constitute a threat to all of us. We must aim for a world free of nuclear weapons.

To do this, we need to develop unity of purpose and agreement on policy. Finland, for its part, has been involved in work which is based on gradual approach and on finding building blocks for nuclear disarmament.

Spirit of dialogue and respect for each other's views is necessary. We believe that progress is possible only if there is engagement also with those states which actually possess nuclear arms.

The Vienna Conference will further enhance our common understanding on the humanitarian impact of these weapons. Unfortunately, quick progress in nuclear disarmament seems at the moment unlikely. Against this backdrop it is important and useful that we here have had the opportunity to explore ways to increase security by other means, such as reducing the probability of accidental explosions or of unintentional launch of nuclear missiles.

Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty contains a clear commitment to nuclear disarmament and provides the main institutional framework for multilateral policy decisions in this field. Deliberations here in Vienna will enrich the work of the next NPT Review Conference in 2015.

Chairperson,

For Finland civil society is an integral part of disarmament and non-proliferation discussion. We take a careful note of the contributions of the Civil Society Forum that convened here in Vienna over the weekend. In addition, we have included a very prominent representative of the Finnish NGO Community into our Governmental Delegation, former Minister and Member of European Parliament, Dr. Tarja Cronberg.

The five nuclear weapon states that are recognised in the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty did not participate in the two previous Conferences on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Now two of the P 5, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, are here for the first time. This is a significant step, and Finland welcomes their decision to get involved in the debate here today.

Last, but not least, let me thank our Austrian colleagues for hosting this event and for the excellent arrangements in the historical venue of Hofburg Palace. We appreciate the inclusive and constructive preparatory process leading up to the Conference and we are confident that this balanced approach is also reflected in the Chair's Summary to be presented at the end of today's debate.

I thank you.