OEWG 5.8. comments by Finland

Mr Chair, let me first congratulate you on your excellent leadership during the OEWG process. While we endorse the message delivered by the distinguished ambassador of Germany and I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity. The range of different approaches to nuclear disarmament and proposals to advance it are all reflected in the draft final report and they show that there are a variety of alternatives to make progress in nuclear disarmament.

For Finland the participation of the nuclear weapon states in nuclear disarmament is a key and we emphasize that the NPT forms a corner in advancing this work.

Mr. Chair, while congratulating you on reflecting the different approaches to nuclear disarmament in the report, we also wonder about the qualitative and quantitative definitions used in those contexts. It would be helpful to clarify this matter in the next version of the report.

The amount of different working papers submitted during the OEWG sessions has been overwhelming and I don’t envy the task you and your team had to take to go through them in the course of the past months in order to reflect them in the report. Perhaps it is safest to keep to the original language of these working papers instead of interpreting them and especially making strong linkages between them. This could be tuned in the next version of the report.

Finland wishes that the final report can be adopted by consensus and that our work in these last weeks is guided by inclusion and respect for the multitude of different views represented in this room. We have full trust in your capabilities as a Chair to undertake this challenging task and our delegation stands ready to support you in this work.