Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
Nayarit, Mexico 13-14 February, 2014

Statement by Norway

Over these two days we have heard presentations and interventions depicting the humanitarian scenarios we would have to face should one or more nuclear detonations take place. The full picture of the consequences, be they immediate or longer-term, is hard to fathom. The conclusion of the representative from UNIDIR - that in a highly populated area the international humanitarian response would be inadequate even in the case of a single detonation - leaves no comfort in terms of our ability to handle such events.

1. This conference has shown that participation in, support of, and ownership to this agenda, is increasing. That is a natural consequence of the growing recognition that these humanitarian consequences are a global issue that concerns us all.

2. The Oslo conference provided a platform for the first systematic discussion on WHAT the humanitarian consequences are, and HOW to relate to them. This conference, and all the preparatory work that has gone into it, has contributed to substantially increased knowledge about and perspectives on these consequences. This has helped identify issues that belong in a comprehensive perspective on the humanitarian consequences, and that deserve further research and discussion.

3. We all share the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. This is a goal that we have a joint obligation to work towards. Listening to the experts during this conference, reaching that goal seems more urgent than ever before. As we have heard from the podium and from the floor over these two days, there are different views as to what the path to reaching that goal is.

What is clear, though, is that the Oslo Conference and this conference has shown that the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation is a global concern. As a party to the NPT, Norway remains deeply committed to the goals of that treaty. Austria has announced its intention to organize a conference later this year. We welcome any initiatives that contribute to meaningful progress towards our common goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

In closing, we would like to commend the Mexican government for hosting such a successful conference, and also would like to thank all the participating states, ICRC and the UN and civil society for their most valuable contributions. Last, but not least, our gratitude to the hibakusha for their important testimony.

Thank you.