Final remarks by Ambassador Benno Laggner, Head of the Division for Security Policy and Ambassador for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Federal Departement of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

My delegation would like to thank the Mexican Government for organizing this Conference.

The active participation and interaction of so many States here in Nayarit sends a strong signal across the globe.

We greatly benefited from the excellent presentations by the various experts and the contributions made by other delegations.

We welcome the active participation of the ICRC, the United Nations and other International Organizations as well as Civil Society.

And as I already mentioned yesterday we also very much welcome the opportunity given to victims to give their testimony.

The Oslo Conference last year was a first and long-overdue conference focusing on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

This Conference allowed us to continue the discussions and further explore the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Beyond the preparedness and consequences discussion, this Conference also shed light on the other key component of the "risks formula": the probabilities. And we have clearly seen that these probabilities are not zero, but rather significant and certainly underestimated.

These discussions need to be continued. And in this regard, we very much welcome the offer by the Austrian Government to host a follow-up Conference in Vienna later this year.

Today’s discussion underlined very clearly that as long as these weapons exist there is a risk that they will be used again – whether by accident, by design or due to miscalculation.
Nuclear Weapons are perceived by some as an instrument to generate security through nuclear deterrence. They are also seen by some as a symbol of power. But above all, they are a threat to international security and human kind.

My delegation has already stated in Oslo and on other occasions that while existing mechanisms and initiatives will continue to be essential we have to explore new avenues to help implement article VI of the NPT. And that in order to implement article VI fully, additional legally binding instruments are necessary.

This conference has underlined the need for all of us to unite around the humanitarian imperative. And it has underlined the importance to continue our work in a collective spirit in order to achieve our common objective of the elimination of NW. For it is a collective responsibility of all of us to ensure that future generations will never again be confronted with the destructive power of these weapons.

Thank you very much.