After careful consideration, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States have decided not to attend the Conference on the "Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons" scheduled to take place from 4-5 March in Oslo, Norway.

Each of our countries understands the serious consequences of nuclear weapon use and will continue to give the highest priority to avoiding such contingencies.

It is in the interest of all nations to assure that nuclear war should never be fought, for there can be no winners in such a conflict.

We remain concerned that the Oslo Conference will divert discussion away from practical steps to create conditions for further nuclear weapons reductions.

The practical, step-by-step approach that we are taking has proven to be the most effective means to increase stability and reduce nuclear dangers.

In that regard, we strongly reaffirm our commitment to the shared goal of nuclear disarmament and emphasize the importance of working together with all States Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to implement the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan across all three pillars of the NPT - disarmament, nonproliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

As nuclear-weapon States, we will continue to work together toward strengthening the foundation for mutual confidence and further disarmament efforts.

These efforts will continue at the P5 conference hosted by the Russian Federation in April.