Norway/UNGA 76/1C/Nuclear weapons cluster

Madam/Mr Chair,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It has served global security well for over 50 years. We must make all efforts to ensure that the tenth Review Conference will strengthen the Treaty. Obligations and previous commitments must be implemented, and polarisation must be overcome.

Norway is part of the Stockholm Initiative for NPT and Nuclear Disarmament. This is a high-level initiative that gives concrete recommendations to promote nuclear disarmament. We have agreed on several actions, including on efforts for nuclear risk reduction. We hope that all NPT states parties will be able to support the recommendations from the Stockholm Initiative to the NPT Review Conference.

Madam/Mr Chair,

Norway gives high priority to developing credible multilateral solutions to verify future nuclear disarmament. We are encouraged to see that an increasing number of states are engaging substantively on this work.

In 2019, resolution 74/50 on Nuclear Disarmament Verification (NDV) was adopted with the support of 178 Member States. The resolution called for a new Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). This year, we are tabling, together with partners, a decision on nuclear disarmament verification to keep the topic on the agenda for UNGA 77. The decision also reflects the fact that due to the pandemic, the two GGE meetings planned for 2021 will be moved to 2023. The two meetings in 2022 will be conducted as planned. We hope all states will support this decision.

Norway continues to be actively engaged in the Quad Nuclear Disarmament Verification Partnership and the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification. In our view, it is crucial to integrate policy perspectives and technical expertise in order to drive progress, and we remain fully committed to this approach.

In the lead up to the tenth Review Conference of the NPT, Norway would also like to draw attention to nuclear disarmament irreversibility. Irreversibility is a principle that enjoys broad support among States, but there is no common definition or unified understanding of the concept. Our aim is to start an international dialogue to better understand and identify requirements for irreversibility. As for verification, a common understanding of this concept is crucial to future nuclear disarmament. This work should start now.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Norway continues to advocate for the rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the negotiation and conclusion of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. The Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol
constitute the global verification standard, enabling the IAEA to monitor and evaluate compliance with obligations under the NPT.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Dialogue on arms control and strategic stability is key to global security. The P5 dialogue is vital to further implementation of the NPT, and we encourage the P5 to deepen this dialogue.

The extension of the New START is welcome. It creates space for strategic dialogue between nuclear powers, which can prepare the ground for future arms control agreements. We welcome the reaffirmation by presidents Biden and Putin of the principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, and that the two countries have embarked on an integrated bilateral Strategic Stability Dialogue. We also welcome US transparency on stockpiles.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Norway emphasises the importance of educating a new generation of arms control and NPT experts, and supports efforts in this regard – like the Oslo Nuclear Project.

Norway continues to call for the full and equal participation of women in disarmament and non-proliferation fora.

There is no fast track to a world without nuclear weapons. We need to pursue a forward-looking and comprehensive agenda, which must include a number of mutually reinforcing stepping stones.

Thank you.