

## Check against delivery

### A Global Effort to Achieve a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

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#### Introduction

Over the last two days we have been privileged to have a fascinating and candid exchange of views on achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. I thank all of you for your active engagement. I also express my profound gratitude to my co-hosts, the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority. The personal involvement of Senator Nunn, Secretary Shultz and Director-General ElBaradei has also contributed, in no small measure, to the success of this conference. Their collective 'wake-up' call is a sage and timely warning. I assure them and all of you that Norway, working independently and through the Seven Nation Initiative, will heed it.

Your discussion has focused on many of the most urgent challenges on the path to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. It also has yielded some valuable recommendations. My colleagues will shortly share a preliminary list of those recommendations, and I look forward to our discussion of these. Before we do that, I would like to offer my own reflections on some principles for progress in our global effort. They are in no way exhaustive, but I believe they are crucial.

#### Principles for Progress

- First, achieving the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons demands committed leadership at the highest levels. Our discussion has made it clear that we have to re-think key elements of our international security architecture if nuclear weapons are to be abolished. In order to do this, national leaders must be personally committed to abolishing nuclear weapons. To bring about the required change, leaders must engage with key domestic stakeholders, including security establishments, the scientific community, and in particular, the general public.
- Second, taking disarmament seriously requires that we begin taking concrete steps now to sustain our vision and build momentum behind it. This means *meaningful* unilateral steps and commencing negotiations required for deep cuts in nuclear arsenals. It means reducing the role of nuclear weapons in doctrines and in operational status. It means fulfilling the promise of long-sought agreements like the CTBT and an FMCT, and outstanding commitments made in 1995 and 2000. And to insure necessary confidence in these and other steps, we must be willing to undertake

binding agreements with credible verification. Taking disarmament seriously also means taking regional conflicts seriously. International efforts should focus as much on regional conflicts which have *not* 'gone critical', as much as they do with those that have.

- A third principle is also a remarkable opportunity: Achieving a world free of nuclear weapons must be a joint enterprise among all states – nuclear-*weapon* states and *non*-nuclear weapon states alike. Article VI of the NPT places the obligation to bring about disarmament on all states. No doubt, states with the largest arsenals have a leadership role to play. But only by advancing non-proliferation and disarmament *together*, and by working *together* on reliable verification tools and collective security arrangements, will our vision be achievable. If we draw on common purpose to work together among militaries, among scientists, among diplomats and among governments, the benefits could be felt in many other fields as well.
- Fourth, we should be faithful to a key principle of effective multilateralism, which is non-discrimination. Our discussion has confirmed that, when it comes to nuclear weapons, we face collective dangers. We will be well-served by non-discriminatory approaches to these dangers. We must confront proliferation with unity and resolve, wherever it occurs. We must fashion disarmament agreements that include all states. We must recognize that fuel cycle assurances will succeed only with a non-discriminatory approach that recognizes the right of all states to peaceful uses and the need of all states for energy security. And it is with this spirit that we approach a fuel reserve under the aegis of the IAEA.
- Finally, transparency should be at the heart of our global effort. It is required from both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states. While it is a vital starting point for many of the practical steps we must take, it also is a means of building the vital elements of trust and confidence, without which our efforts to reach zero cannot succeed. Greater transparency does not necessarily require legal instruments that can take months or even years to negotiate. It can be implemented by all states unilaterally starting today.

These are my personal reflections, but I believe that these five principles must inform our general and specific steps toward achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. To borrow Senator Nunn's metaphor, these principles can be guideposts on our ascent to the mountain-top.

Director-General Kaare Aas will now offer a preliminary account of some of the key recommendations which have emerged over the last two days. I look forward to our discussion, and to the closing thoughts of Secretary Shultz and Senator Nunn.