

Statement of Denmark by
H.E. Ambassador Uffe A. Balslev
Undersecretary for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation
and Arms Control, at the
High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly
on Nuclear Disarmament
New York, 26 September 2013

Thank you Mr President.

Denmark aligns itself with the statement of Lithuania on behalf of the European Union.

Denmark shares the vision of a world completely without nuclear weapons. A vision we should pursue with vigour. It can, however, only be achieved if we continue to focus on common grounds. Achieving a world without nuclear weapons is a shared responsibility of all States. Our efforts to get there should be inclusive, determined and goal-oriented.

The Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and global non-proliferation. Denmark remains committed to the full implementation and universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The same goes for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty that should enter into force as soon as possible. We urge the Annex 2 countries that still have not done so to sign and ratify without further delay.

The long stalemate and on-going deadlock with regards to nuclear disarmament negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament is neither

satisfactory nor acceptable. It therefore remains important that we all continue to focus on reviving the CD. Expansion of its membership would be one possible measure. The High Level Meeting today offers us an opportunity to move forward. We must recommit to the ambitious target of a world without nuclear weapons. And we must recommit to the intermediate steps that could take us there.

The growing awareness about the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons is also important. Denmark shares the concern of the devastating immediate and long-term humanitarian effects that could follow from the use – intentionally or by accident – of nuclear weapons.

So what should we do? We believe that by applying a ‘building blocks’-approach we can move towards a gradual and irreversible reduction of all nuclear weapons. Building blocks means utilizing several arenas and tools at the same time; such as strengthening our export controls for nuclear and related dual-use goods, fostering initiatives aimed at greater transparency, better reporting and a higher degree of verification. Alongside which, we should urge all countries and alliances to significantly diminish the role of nuclear weapons in military and defence doctrines.

Although many challenges still lie ahead, the fact that we are here today tells me that we have already achieved a lot. And that we can achieve even more if we work together.. In the wake of the successful conduct of the NPT Review Conference in 2010 we must all prioritise the implementation of the Action Plan adopted there.

One element is the efforts to convene a Conference on the Establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East. Denmark fully supports them. We call on all states in the region to help create the conditions for the convening of the conference as soon as possible. The government of Denmark also finds the proposal for an Arctic zone free of weapons of mass

destruction worthy of further pursuit and will continue to engage our close friends and neighbours in the Arctic in discussions on this topic.

A world without nuclear weapons is indeed a shared responsibility of all States. Denmark will continue to play its part in ensuring our common goal of a complete, irreversible, transparent, and verifiable abolishment of nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.