



## General Assembly 68<sup>th</sup> Session

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### High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament

H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Mr Chair,

We must renew the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. President Barack Obama's announcement in Berlin that the US would negotiate with a view to reducing US strategic nuclear weapons by up to a third is an important step in this direction.

We were pleased when the NPT Review Conference in 2010 brought concrete results in the shape of a detailed Action Plan. But only the implementation of the Action Plan will take us from the level of diplomatic achievement to results on the ground. We look forward to seeing even more ambitious, concrete and measurable steps being taken to implement the Action Plan.

Mr Chair,

The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has increasingly been recognised as a fundamental, and global, concern that must be at the heart of all our deliberations regarding nuclear disarmament and all our non-proliferation efforts. At the last NPT Review Conference, all member states expressed their – and I quote – “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” (end quote).

In March this year, I had the honour of hosting an international conference in Oslo on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. 128 states met at the Conference, together with UN humanitarian organisations such as OCHA, UNHCR and UNDP, as well as the ICRC and representatives of civil society.

The Conference provided a new arena for a facts-based discussion for all stakeholders, and focused on three key issues:

- The immediate humanitarian impact of nuclear detonations.
- The wider and more long-term developmental, health and environmental consequences.
- Preparedness, including plans and existing capacity for responding to this type of disaster.

(Check against delivery)