

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Beatrice Fihn, 4 March 2013

- I represent the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and we want to thank the panellists for their excellent presentations, which contained very significant evidence on the humanitarian impact that nuclear weapons will cause if used.
- We know that nuclear weapons would kill many thousands in a few seconds, but this panel really made it obvious that it will also affect people far away from the bomb.
- There are so many aspects of long-term impact that we can discuss, and it is of course difficult to calculate the exact impact of a nuclear weapons explosion. But we know that we live in a different world than when nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a much more interconnected world, where we are dependent on each other.
- In addition to what the panellists have outlined, a nuclear weapons explosion would also cause interruption to the supply of food and commodities, disruption of agricultural and industrial production. It would have significant impact on the economy, the business sector, and stock markets – possibly even triggering a global recession.
- It would cause devastating damage to infrastructure, critical industry, lives, and livelihoods; and result in large-scale forced or voluntary migration. All of these consequences have direct impact on the economy, levels of poverty and development around the world. It would put enormous pressure on the already limited capacity amongst governments and international organisations to provide adequate aid to people in need.
- A nuclear weapons explosion today would take place in a context that is already challenging for meeting the Millennium Development Goals and is full of international and domestic inequalities.
- A nuclear weapon explosion will not discriminate between rich and poor in its immediate impact, but the wider, long-term consequences will.
- It will disproportionately impact on the most vulnerable people around the world. Those without enough food. Those without access to health care, water, and education. Those that are already suffering from lack of resources.
- This discussion, on the wider, long-term impact, highlights that the effects will spread beyond borders, to areas far away from where the bomb was dropped. And that we will have to live with these consequences for a long

time.

- It would affect all of us. No matter where we are, or even if we already banned nuclear weapons through a NWFZ. We will still suffer.
- It is therefore the responsibility of all countries, in particular those without nuclear weapons and in NWFZ to now show leadership. The impact that a nuclear weapons explosion would have is unacceptable and it is all of our responsibility to prevent this from ever happening again.
- Just like chemical and biological weapons, we must outlaw nuclear weapons.