

Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

International Conference

Oslo, 4-5 March 2013

Working session I and II : Immediate and long-term impacts of a nuclear weapon detonation

Points for Norwegian statement.

#### Session I

- Thank you for informative and thought-provoking presentations. The essence of these presentations is not new, of course. We have known since 1945 that nuclear weapons detonations will have a devastating impact. But in most international contexts, this knowledge has been referred to in very general terms. Your testimony has helped us substantiate our conclusion that nuclear weapons detonations will have far-reaching and profound negative consequences for people's lives, health and safety.
- The documented medical effects are horrifying to hear about and almost difficult to grasp, but nevertheless very real. The sheer scale and magnitude of the health impacts on individuals, and indeed whole societies, are deeply worrying.
- It is also important to recognize that even a single nuclear weapon detonation will unleash massive forces that will destroy physical structures, buildings and other infrastructure on a devastating scale. Seeing the impact on a city like Oslo, brings this home to us very clearly.
- It all comes down to the need to comprehend that nuclear weapons are weapons, first and foremost, What is particular about them, compared to other weapons, is primarily their enormous destructive power. And we need to recognize that these weapons are still with us today.