

Concluding comments by South African delegation, 5 March 2013

Madam Secretary of State, Honorable Minister Eide, Ambassador Kongstad

My delegation would like to join others in thanking the Government of Norway for its hospitality and for hosting an excellent Conference.

Allow us to leave you with the wise words of our former President, Nelson Mandela, who argued that and I quote: *'We have to remake our common world anew. The violence we see all around us, against people who are as human as we ... must surely be addressed in a decisive and sustained manner... The violence against which I speak is...the violence of war...and of the frightening threat which hangs over all humanity that is posed by the huge arsenals of weapons of mass destruction, and especially nuclear weapons, which remain in the stockpiles of a few countries in the world... The critical question of nuclear disarmament must remain high on our list of priorities. Therefore ... we will have to continue to engage this issue to ensure that we achieve actual movement...'* (end of quote)

I am sure that all of us will agree that we dare not disappoint Madiba. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the threat of their use, either by accident or design, endures. Let his words therefore serve as our clarion call to action. Let it ensure that we leave this discussion not only with a better understanding of the unacceptable impact and short and longer-term consequences of nuclear weapons, but also the concrete steps that must be taken to ensure the necessary movement on nuclear disarmament, so that we can indeed remake our common world anew!

We warmly welcome the announcement made by Mexico and stand ready to contribute to and to support further efforts towards this goal.

I thank you.