

2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Findings of the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013

Working paper submitted by Norway

1. The Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons took place in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013 and was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway at the time, Espen Barth Eide.

2. The Conference came about as a response to the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which stated, *inter alia*:

“The Conference expresses its deep concern at the continued risk for humanity represented by the possibility that these weapons could be used and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons.”¹

3. Annexed to the present paper is the Chair’s summary of the Conference, outlining the main findings of this fact-based approach (see annex).

¹ Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, vol. I ([NPT/CONF.2010/50 \(Vol. I\)](#)), para. 80.



Annex

Chair's summary of the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013

The Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013, heard presentations from a wide range of experts on the various effects of nuclear weapon detonations. Presentations covered preparedness and first-line response, as well as the medium- and long-term humanitarian, developmental and environmental effects.

The objective was to present a facts-based understanding of the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapon detonations and to facilitate an informed discussion of these effects with stakeholders from States, the United Nations, other international organizations and civil society.

Delegations representing 127 States, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society participated in the Conference. It is the Chair's view that this broad participation reflects the increasing global concern regarding the effects of nuclear weapons detonations, as well as the recognition that this is an issue of fundamental significance to us all.

Some key points can be discerned from the presentations and the discussions:

- It is unlikely that any State or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation in an adequate manner and provide sufficient assistance to those affected. Moreover, it might not be possible to establish such capacities, even if it were attempted.
- The historical experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has demonstrated their devastating immediate and long-term effects. While political circumstances have changed, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons remains.
- The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of cause, will not be constrained by national borders and will affect States and people in significant ways, regionally as well as globally.

This Conference aimed to present key aspects of the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation. During the discussions, a number of States expressed an interest in further exploring this important issue in ways that ensure global participation. States expressed their interest in continuing the discussions and in broadening the discourse on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The Chair welcomes the offer from Mexico to host a follow-up meeting to this Conference. The Chair also welcomes the intention expressed by other States to organize events on this subject.