



## Keynote Speech

Snøfrid B. Emterud,  
Norway, Counsellor,  
The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Japan

Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me give you warm thank for the invitation to speak on behalf of the Norwegian Embassy here at the 5th Global Citizens Assembly in Nagasaki.

This conference is an important reminder of the tragic events that took place in Japan those August days 68 years ago – and of the unprecedented human suffering the use of nuclear weapons brought upon the men, women and children of Nagasaki which is strongly described by the atomic survivor Mr. Ikeda, early in this program. Moreover, it serves as a great example of how cities and local communities can join forces for a greater cause that is the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Here in Japan, the effects of a nuclear explosion was experienced twice and is still present in many people's minds today. But the attention and knowledge of the effects of nuclear weapons are arguably relatively low in many other countries around the world and particularly among many young people.

But nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are issues of global concern. Any nuclear explosion – whether detonated intentionally by a state, or by terrorists, or the result of an accident — would put our whole humanitarian response capacity under huge strain, and nuclear weapons represent a serious and broad security problem today. This is why we should all like to see nuclear technology used solely for peaceful purposes.

Ladies and gentlemen

While political circumstances have changed much in recent years, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons remains with us. It has rightly been said that since the end of the Cold War there has been a dramatic reduction in nuclear arsenals. Still tens of thousands of nuclear weapons remain in the arsenals of states, and there are legitimate grounds for asking whether it is necessary in today's world to maintain nearly 20,000 warheads. When the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) came into force in 1970, there were five nuclear states; now the number has nearly doubled.

We all share a common interest in preventing new states from acquiring these weapons of mass destruction, and not least in ensuring that weapons of this kind and sensitive materials necessary for their development do not fall into the wrong hands. Combined with continued documented nuclear weapons accidents and the ever-present risk of nuclear theft or diversion, this means that the dangers must be addressed. From a Norwegian perspective, our common security would be better served by moving towards and building a world without nuclear weapons.

Ladies and gentlemen

Since 2010, we have seen the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons increasingly being recognized as a fundamental, and global, concern that must be at the core of all our deliberations regarding

nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. This is fully in line with the NPT Review Conference in 2010, where the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons were one of the issues raised at the Conference. In the outcome document of the Conference the participant countries clearly expressed and I quote “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”, and moreover emphasized the duty of all countries to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

In March this year, Norway hosted a conference in Oslo on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The aim of the conference was to be an arena for a facts-based discussion on the humanitarian and developmental consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation.

The objective of the conference was to facilitate an informed discussion on this issue with stakeholders from states, the UN and other international organizations and civil society. A total of 128 states attended, as well as the United Nations Organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society.

The broad and active participation at the Oslo Conference reflected the recognition that the catastrophic effect of a nuclear detonation is an issue of concern and relevance to all.

The consequences of a nuclear detonation are relevant to practitioners in different fields such as health services, development, environment, finance, and emergency preparedness.

However, so far there has been no arena in which to discuss these encompassing perspectives.

The Conference was held over two days and included presentations by international experts and other relevant national and international stakeholders concerning three key aspects:

1. The immediate humanitarian impact of nuclear detonations
2. The wider and longer term developmental, health and environmental consequences
3. Preparedness, including plans and existing capacity to respond to this type of disaster

The Conference heard presentations from a wide range of experts on the various effects of nuclear weapons detonations, including very valuable presentations from the Japanese participants, in particular from Dr Tomonaga. Three key points were discerned from the presentations and the discussions:

One, It is unlikely that any state or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapons 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.

Second key point that came out from the conference was that 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.

And the third key point coming out of the conference was that 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.

Nuclear detonations affect future generations' health, food security and vital natural resources and hamper socioeconomic development. The conference established, in concrete terms, what “cata-

strophic humanitarian consequences.

Ladies and gentlemen

There can be no doubt that a highly credible disarmament regime is essential if we are to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. However, multilateral efforts in nuclear disarmament maintains however plagued with a longstanding stalemate. We are all familiar with the current situation in the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva which prevents us from moving forward as recommended by the NPT 2010 Review Conference. It is also a paradox that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which is supported by more than 150 States Parties, is unable to enter into force. There is therefore considerable impatience regarding how multilateral nuclear disarmament can move forward.

While countries share the overall objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, countries continue to disagree on what we should do to reach this common goal. Despite different views on how and when a convention should or could be negotiated, there are a number of measures that could be taken to enhance our common security. We therefore remain staunch supporters of initiatives that put nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to the forefront.

Let me just mention briefly a few of those.

I have talked about the NPT Review Conference in 2010, the Action Plan was adopted. I think it was 64 points that the states party has to work on till the next conference in 2015. And this is the matter of urgency.

We must also continue to accelerate efforts in reducing existing arsenals, and take steps to hinder the development of a new generation of nuclear arsenals. We welcome bilateral disarmament measures such as the New START agreement, and also welcome President Obama's speech in Berlin last June where he highlighted the need for further disarmament initiatives, which also could include all categories of nuclear weapons. In addition to accelerate the efforts to reduce existing arsenals, steps must be taken to hinder the development of a new generation of nuclear arms.

Furthermore, we should continue to put our efforts to further reduce the role of this category of weapon in security policies and doctrines.

We welcome last year's decision at the general assembly, to set up a Group of Governmental Experts responsible for further the negotiations on the Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty. I think a ban against the production of fissile material for weapons use would send a strong message that the role of nuclear weapons in security policies must be significantly reduced. And it would furthermore consolidate the non-proliferation regime.

Pending the introduction of a Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty we also urge that all nuclear weapons states adopt a moratorium to the production of fissile material for military purposes. It is also essential to reinforce the norm against nuclear testing. That is why Norway and among many countries have condemned the nuclear and missile tests carried out by DPRK.

Let me also mention the nuclear weapons free zones, and the importance of consolidating existing nuclear weapons free zones, and supporting the creation of new zones.

A highly credible non-proliferation regime is also of essence, if we are to move for it, and it is thus of great importance that the IAEA is given necessary political and financial support from its member countries to carry out its mandate.

Let me then come back to the humanitarian effects.

The Humanitarian effect of nuclear weapons is a matter that concerns all UN member states.

For too long, the nuclear weapons issue was reduced to a question of state security. It is, of course. But with their unique ability to disrupt all life on earth, it is as much a question of world security. And with their colossal and indiscriminate effects, nuclear weapons are also a question of humanitarian security.

In that regard we do hope the humanitarian engagement will contribute to real progress on nuclear disarmament. Norway, like Japan, firmly subscribes to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, and we continue to work towards the realization of this goal. And of course, Japan also has not only exceptional experience, but also very considerable knowledge to contribute on the humanitarian consequences of the use of weapons.

Civil society also plays a crucial role in this effort. Were nuclear weapons ever to be used again – by states, by non-state actors or as a result of an incident or miscalculation - it would affect us all. And so it must be the responsibility of all to contribute towards their eventual elimination.

Towards that goal it is important to keep the humanitarian effect of nuclear weapons on the agenda. It is therefore vital that all UN member states, both nuclear weapons states and nonnuclear weapons states, take part in the discussions. We are very pleased that a number of states expressed during the Oslo conference an interest in further exploring these issues, and broaden the discourse on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. In that regard I would also like to welcome Mexico's offer to host a follow-up conference in February next year.

This conference will address the long-term consequences of a nuclear detonation, and the level of preparedness needed to respond to such catastrophe.

Moreover we are very pleased that the recent Joint Statement issued at the United Nations General Assembly First Committee, by New Zealand on behalf of 117 countries, including Norway and Japan, on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, demonstrates the political will among wide number of countries concerning this matter.

To conclude ladies and gentlemen

The goal must be clear – no more Hiroshimas and no more Nagasakis. Our challenge is how to get there. We must all contribute. My Government will continue to work toward this goal, and look forward to continued and fruitful collaboration with Japan.

Let me finally again thank the organizing committee of Nagasaki Global Citizens Assembly for inviting us here to this conference, and I wish you fruitful and productive discussions throughout the next two days.

Thank you for your attention.