

IPNDV End of Year Meeting

Day 3: Head of Delegation Session

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Carmen MacDougall, NTI Senior Vice President

Opening Remarks (*as Prepared*)

Good morning and welcome to the third day of the IPNDV Phase III Interim Review. I'm Carmen MacDougall, Senior Vice President for the Nuclear Threat Initiative. Thank you for joining us today. NTI is honored to co-host this meeting with our partners at the U.S. Department of State. We look forward to continuing the discussion about the truly innovative, groundbreaking work that all the members have been doing together over the past six years—and also look forward to consider our future work.

Senior-level participation in the IPNDV is critical to the future of the partnership. Your time and input into the IPNDV's work is deeply valued, and it is especially important to have this discussion and engagement about priorities and the program of work now, to lay the best path through the end of the Phase, timed to coincide with the 2025 NPT Review Conference.

The IPNDV began in 2014 when the U.S. Department of State announced that the U.S. government would lead an effort focused on bringing countries together to address the challenges of multilateral nuclear disarmament verification. This work builds on and complements previous and existing verification and monitoring initiatives, but it's also unique. Here's why the IPNDV is so important:

- It involves states with and without nuclear weapons and this is key to charting a path for verification that will be trusted and sustainable.
- It incorporates technology at the beginning—technical and policy perspectives don't just complement each other but are intertwined, which creates strategies that are more effective.
- We are building global capacity—more involvement in the substance means better policymaking and it helps shape a common understanding of how to reach our goals.
- Finally, we aren't just identifying the challenges associated with nuclear disarmament verification—we are developing a toolbox of potential solutions to address them.

NTI is proud and honored to have been part of the IPNDV since its inception. We continue to support the partnership by co-leading the Secretariat and providing outreach support to ensure the IPNDV's work is visible to broader audiences. In addition, NTI staff serve, along with our U.S. government counterparts, as Task Group Executive Secretaries, helping to coordinate the communication and collaboration that occurs between and among the Task Groups. We look forward to working with all partners throughout the rest of Phase III and beyond.

The IPNDV has a bright future, and your active and engaged participation makes it stronger. I want to thank the many individuals and countries who have played key roles in the development of the goals and objectives of IPNDV. I'd particularly like to highlight colleagues from Australia,

Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States who have co-chaired working groups.

I'd also like to express appreciation for the governments of Canada, Norway, and the Netherlands which have provided critical funding over the years to support the IPNDV's work and outreach.

Despite the progress, there is still a lot of work to do. Together, we'll continue to answer some very tough questions, build and diversify international capacity and expertise, and be poised for a future when we'll be on the ground, monitoring and verifying nuclear weapons reductions.

I'm looking forward to today's discussion and again thank you for your participation. Now I'd like to hand back to Mike Edinger.