



Opening Remarks of ASNO at the IPNDV Annual Plenary Meeting Sydney, Australia - December 5, 2022

Delivered by Geoffrey Shaw

Thankyou Marcus.

I too would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the custodians of the land on which we meet, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and those emerging, particularly any who are here today.

And a special thanks Auntie Ann Weldon for your warm welcome to country.

I'd like to thank Senator Ayres for taking the time out of his busy schedule to be here today and

for reminding us of the real human impact of nuclear weapons

- what is at risk if nuclear proliferation is not contained, and
- how collaboration is key to making progress to ridding the world of its' most destructive weapons.
- And in that context, the importance of the initiatives like IPNDV to our collective security interests.

Also like to thank Ambassador Jenkins and Ms MacDougall for their insights on challenges and opportunities

Let me welcome members of the Diplomatic Corps

And last, but certainly not least, representatives of the countries that make up the Int Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

I hope that your travels to Aust have been comfortable and that, in addition to what I know will be a productive week of discussions and demonstrations of verification technologies

- You also get a chance to enjoy Sydney
- One of the truly spectacular harbour cities in the world.

Indeed, I am pleased to see so many of the world's disarmament experts here

- representatives from [18] countries here for the week
- In addition to diplomatic representation from a further [6] countries.

It is great to finally host the IPNDV here in Australia, after two previous attempts which were abandoned due to the pandemic.

- Third time lucky I believe.

It is evident to me that 2022 has been a busy year for the Partnership





In April 2022, we saw the complex but successful French and German-hosted NuDiVe2022 exercise in Aachen

- which focused on the processes and procedures for verifying the dismantlement of a nuclear warhead in a secure way.

For those who missed the exercise, the good news is we can all experience this initiative this week.

- Thank our German colleagues who have set up two virtual reality systems and I encourage you all to take to access this experience.

In June, Belgium hosted the JUNEX22 interactive tabletop exercise on the verification of transport and storage of a national stockpile

This exercise allowed IPNDV to explore statistical sampling methods, turn recently drafted Inspection concepts of operation into an inspection plan, and tackle the incremental building of confidence in a disarmament process.

I know planning is already beginning for the Belgium measurement campaign in September 2023, with a focus on Uranium enrichment measurements. Australia is certainly interested in the opportunity to test the CORIS 360 technology in Belgium.

IPNDV partners were involved in several side events of during NPT RevCon.

Not to mention dozens of zoom meetings of the entire Partnership, task groups, tech track and co-chairs at all hours of the day and night.

You also contribute to various other disarmament initiatives.

- I am not surprised to see that 17 of IPNDV's regular participating states also have experts in the current UN GGE on Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

Some of those experts are in the room here today.

But in 2022 this is not enough.

As highlighted by Sen Ayers, the world is facing significant geo-strategic challenges that threaten our collective security.

- From the DPRK's unprecedented number of ballistic missile tests and the possibility of further nuclear weapons testing; to
- Iran's continued lack of cooperation with the IAEA to resolve outstanding safeguards issues while continuing to stockpile high enriched uranium, to
- Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine, attacks on nuclear facilities and threats of nuclear weapons use.

These challenges highlight that our partnership is needed now more than ever.

- For the political will to seek peace can and will change, and most likely when we least expect it.





It is essential that the practical verification tools, processes and procedures developed by the IPNDV are ready to support tangible disarmament progress comes.

I look forward to hearing how the host task group propose handling the movement of multiple warheads

- while protecting sensitive national security information

And to reading papers on building confidence

- through technologically sound verification strategies, irreversibility, and applying a logical, systems approach to this complex set of issues.

I plan to return to Sydney later in the week to better understand how Trusted Information Barriers such as TRIS and

- hybrid imaging systems like CORIS360
- can help maintain the continuity of knowledge of nuclear material and detect situations of non-compliance.

Through practical exercise and robust debate, the work of IPNDV has shown that multilateral nuclear disarmament verification is not only possible, but

- will be an essential component of building confidence in future nuclear disarmament efforts.

But it is not just the substance of IPNDV that shows its worth.

Equally as important is the collaboration developed within the partnership and international friendships on display here this week.

- It is these relationships that will be needed to build consensus towards future disarmament agreements.

So please enjoy your time here in Sydney and renew the bonds and friendship that have been so difficult for the past several years.

Lastly, let me encourage you to set aside some time this week to take stock of the past, how close the world has come to disaster, and

- how important your work is.

Because despite the negativity of our time, it is important to remember how far we have together come towards the goal of a verified world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your time.

