



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

Delivered by Mr. Tommi Jämsä

Mr. Chair,

It has not been a very good year for arms control and disarmament. Indeed, Russia's illegal war against Ukraine, dangerous nuclear signaling, difficult review conferences, nuclear arms build-up in China, DPRK missile firing and Iran developments... Finland continues to work towards upholding the multilateral framework for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which has come under increasing pressure. It is laudable that joint disarmament exercises and technical track for finding common solutions for nuclear disarmament have been sustained during the Phase III even in difficult circumstances.

In fact, the IPNDV serves a very positive political purpose, even if considered as technical: such as, how to identify and verify nuclear weapons, what technology can be used in developing effective and reliable verification measures; as this remains an important goal both for nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states, in order to build trust and mutual understanding.

Many delegations have noted here the worsening international context and the need for positive thinking. We regard that collaborative partnerships, by the IPNDV and other initiatives, remain the key to move forward. Finland has been an active participant in the IPNDV since it was launched. Tangible results, such as 14-step model, may be further refined in the process of dismantlement and elimination of warheads for multi-year scenarios, in order to support future nuclear disarmament. Perhaps in verification efforts we could use even more academia's input for the best practices in complex technical challenges. We also hope and should strive for the extension of the IPNDV partners.

On behalf of Finland, I wish all participants a very productive meeting and look forward to working group sessions.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

