



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

Delivered by Simone Koring

Good morning!

I am Simone Koring, representing the Federal Foreign Office in the German delegation. Let me start by thanking our Australian colleagues for hosting us here this week. It is so good to have this plenary in-person!

Germany stays fully committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Therefore, Germany advocates for a multilateral and comprehensive approach to nuclear disarmament verification. Capacities should be built among States with and without nuclear weapons in order to develop solutions for monitoring and verification challenges across the whole nuclear weapons lifecycle.

For Germany, effective verifiability means linking disarmament steps to scientifically based and proven methods to achieve concrete reductions as demonstrated by the IPNDV. Germany remains fully committed to IPNDV's seminal work and agrees that the Partnership uses Phase III to continue "developing, testing, evaluating, and refining concepts and practical verification approaches to support future nuclear disarmament."

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, work in the Partnership has well advanced during the past two years and we are pleased that in 2022 we have returned successfully to in-person meetings and exercises such as the Franco-German NuDiVe22 and the IPNDV JUNEX22 exercises, strengthening our shared objective of "moving from paper to practice." Germany is committed to further develop and conduct NuDiVe exercises with our partners.

Germany commends and supports the outstanding work of the US State Department, the established Task Groups and Technology Track Group, NTI and all IPNDV partners - and we are keen to continue contributing to it. We would appreciate more states participating in the Partnership and encourage other states to play a more active role. Additionally, we think that the integration of more academic research would be useful.

We welcome a discussion of the Food-for-thought paper "IPNDV Exploration of Strategic Sensitivities", submitted jointly by the Netherlands and Germany. Let me now focus on what we see as the most significant achievements in Phase III so far and which thematic and procedural issues we consider important.

First, on the **accomplishments**, we believe that IPNDV has gained more important and valuable insights on NDV by the Franco-German NuDiVe22 and the JUNEX22 exercises.

Based on both NuDiVe in-field exercises, we went one step further and developed a virtual reality version of NuDiVe. This VR version will be presented in the Plenary Session after the coffee break.



The Inspector and the Host Task Group, as well as the Technology Track have shown a lot of progress in their work, in particular on verification objectives, declarations, and the development of concepts of NDV operation (CONOPs). I am grateful to hear that Belgium has offered an even more realistic campaign for 2023. A regular evaluation of the joint results of all Task Groups could be helpful to achieve more concrete and communicable verification tools in 2023.

However, outreach on IPNDV activities and results has taken place only to a limited extent, and active support from States has been partly declined.

Second, with regard to **additional topics** and in line with the aforementioned Dutch-German Food-for-Thought paper, Germany supports to include the multi-year, multi-inspection perspective in NDV, including further elaborating Step 14 (disposition), presence and absence measurements, and procedures for re-establishing the chain of custody/continuity of knowledge. We suggest to discuss in more detail the Fissile Material irreversibility perspective, esp. the nuclear material and high explosives compositions.

Lastly, in terms of **priorities for 2023**, Germany believes that IPNDV would benefit from revisiting the more conceptual aspects of NDV and from taking a more strategic approach in developing potential procedures and technologies to addressing NDV challenges. The program of work for 2023 should be clearly result-oriented, include a timeline, a list of deliverables, and an outreach strategy to share our results with other States and with the non-proliferation community.

We are very much looking forward to our discussions. Again many thanks to the Australian government for making this meeting possible.

Thank you.

