



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

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the Australian Government for inviting us to Sydney to this beautiful venue.

Switzerland continues to attach great importance to advancing nuclear disarmament verification, and, in particular IPNDV. The fact that the 10th NPT RevCon was unable to adopt a final document further underscores the importance of such innovative approaches among like-minded states in order to achieve practical disarmament progress over time.

NDV is not disarmament per se. But essential preparatory work. We see the need to expand the toolbox to ensure future multilateral instruments can be verified to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. This goal unites us and must remain our point of reference.

We value the approach of the third phase of IPNDV to make the transition from paper to practice. Previous exercises such as NuDiVe2022 and Junex22 have been very useful to test the concepts developed in Phase I and II. Moreover, we hope that the work will continue to be supported as widely as possible in the continuation.

In addition to the work of States, the contributions of think tanks and institutes remain central.

The technologically demanding measurement campaign BeCamp2, which will take place in September 2023, will certainly contribute significantly to the refinement of the measurement techniques available to IPNDV. We thank Belgium for organizing this contribution to the transition from paper to practice.

Regarding the way forward in the third phase, we thank the Netherlands and Germany for their food-for-thought paper. Addressing the strategic and conceptual problems will certainly help to move IPNDV forward. We support the proposal to establish a working group for this purpose.

In our view, a constant feedback of the possible solutions for the strategic and conceptual problems into the exercises will certainly be helpful. If new questions arise in the exercises, they could be addressed subsequently by the working group. We would consider this circular approach as beneficial.

Finally, I would like to share with colleagues some information about a practical verification exercise that will be conducted in Switzerland in March 2023. It is based on the UNIDIR concept "verification of absence". This project is supported by the Netherlands and Norway,





and will be co-organized with UNIDIR. The aim of the exercise is to test the concept in practice. Therefore, a group of experts was invited to Switzerland to take part in the exercise. We believe that the topic very much relates to IPNDV – it benefits from experiences made in IPNDV and we hope it can provide added value to it. We will update IPNDV members of the results and are happy to provide additional information.

Thank you

