Mr. Chair,

Norway’s position on nuclear weapons has already been outlined in the Nordic statement, and the joint statement by the Netherlands and Norway. Let me add a couple of words in a national capacity.

The Norwegian parliament agreed by consensus on 26 April to the following motion:

*The Storting requests the Government to actively work for a world free of nuclear arms and to promote the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to be a driving force for non-proliferation and disarmament with a view to the balanced, mutual, irreversible and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, and on these grounds to take a long-term perspective in working for a legally binding framework to achieve this goal.*
There are different views on how to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. Despite different positions on the means to achieve our shared goal, there should be common ground on practical and effective measures which will enable us to move closer towards full elimination of nuclear arms.

One area of convergence is in the field of verification of nuclear disarmament. Verification is essential for fostering and enhancing confidence that disarmament obligations are fulfilled. This element is important both for non-nuclear weapons states and for those states which will carry out irreversible destruction and elimination of their stocks of nuclear arms.

Norway, together with Chile, Finland, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, has tabled a resolution on Nuclear Disarmament Verification. We invite all countries to join in on this resolution. The overall intention of this resolution is to increase multilateral knowledge and awareness of verification within a UN framework and in an inclusive manner.

On Wednesday, 19th October, at 1:15 p.m., Norway will host a side-event on Nuclear Disarmament Verification. At this side-event there will be several experts present to describe in more details what verification is all about – and point to some additional future actions. We hope to see many of you there.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.