I would like to thank the government of Mexico for hosting what has been a very informative meeting. As in Oslo last year, speakers have highlighted the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a nuclear weapons detonation. They have shown that these consequences may be constrained neither by borders or time and that, in worst-case scenarios, could affect populations across the globe for generations.

Indeed, the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons would be devastating and long-lasting. We note reference by speakers this morning and yesterday to the risk of diversion or theft of nuclear materials by non-state actors, causing catastrophic humanitarian consequences, would be the primary intent of terrorist groups that would seek to perpetrate a nuclear detonation.

Over 140 states pronounced themselves at UNGA in 2013 on this issue, and the humanitarian approach has been instrumental in raising awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons, and reinvigorating efforts towards ensuring that they are never used again. We were pleased to join the Australian-led statement in this regard.

Canada is not convinced, however, that simply banning nuclear weapons, particularly without recognition of both their security and humanitarian dimensions, will guarantee their elimination. Focusing our efforts on a pragmatic, building-block approach to non-proliferation and disarmament is more realistic, practical and achievable, and engagement with those states possessing nuclear weapons is essential.

We also recognize that ensuring non-proliferation of weapons creates a climate more conducive to nuclear disarmament, and reduces the risk of a deliberate or accidental use of a weapon. With near-universal adherence, the NPT remains the most viable framework through which to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used, and to achieve our shared goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Just as the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons underpin the NPT, so must they push all states to seek further implementation of the 2010 Action Plan. We are working actively with the government of Mexico and the rest of our partners in the NPDI to advance the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, including greater transparency on nuclear disarmament and reductions in nuclear arsenals.

There are no easy solutions to reaching our long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Concerted efforts are required. We must work together to maintain and strengthen the institutions and regimes that are needed to advance key non-proliferation and disarmament priorities, and ensure that those weapons that exist are never used either by state and non-state actors.

Statement delivered by Kelly Anderson, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva