Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by thanking our Mexican hosts for all the arrangements for this conference, and for the wonderful hospitality. It has really been a pleasure to attend.

The programme has been very substantive, like in Oslo last year. I believe we have all learned something new during these two days.

I would particularly like to thank the organisers for enabling the powerful and impressive testimony of the survivors of the nuclear blasts in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Their accounts tell about so much suffering but also about so much courage. We are honoured that they have agreed to share with us their experience on the tragedy that has shaped modern history.

Let me also thank the representatives of the civil society for their active participation, for their expertise and for their suggestions. It has been one of the merits of this event that governments, NGO’s and other participants can freely exchange views both in the conference room and outside of it.

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It is now time for us here to conclude with a reflection on what comes next. How are we going to continue addressing the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons?

The need to tackle the grave risks we have been talking about unites the international community. There is no doubt about that.

We are grateful to the Government of Austria for informing the world about its intention to organise a follow-up conference after Nayarit. We are looking forward to hearing more about Austrian plans and ideas with respect to the follow-up.

I also want to mention the role of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, NPT. All three of its pillars are important for Finland: 1) peaceful use of nuclear energy, 2) non-proliferation and 3) nuclear disarmament. There is some frustration related to the regime, but the NPT is definitely worth defending. The world is safer with the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty than without it.

We anticipate that the humanitarian aspect of nuclear weapons will be taken up in the preparations of the next NPT Review Conference to be held in New York 2015. The Preparatory Committee meeting takes place already this spring.
Such a link to the NPT is a good thing. When it comes to addressing any kind of nuclear threats, the NPT review process provides regular opportunities to discuss them, and to discuss them in a rather inclusive multilateral framework. We are confident that the humanitarian aspect, as well as other issues, will be handled in a productive and constructive manner.

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Mr. Chairperson, fellow participants,

I am looking forward to meeting you all soon again. And let me once more time thank the host country and the people of Nayarit for organising this useful and event. Thank you very much.