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Madame President, thank you for the opportunity to briefly address this conference.

I would like to offer a few thoughts on how Articles 7–9 could further strengthen verification of the treaty that we are negotiating -- and complement the articles we discussed yesterday.

**On Article 8: International Cooperation**

Article 8 currently asks states parties to cooperate with other states parties “to facilitate the implementation of the obligations of this Convention.”

Here, we believe, Article 8 could be explicit and include encouragement for states to cooperate on the further development of the tools needed for disarmament verification.

It is a common mistake to assume that only weapon states have the technical resources and expertise to advance new approaches to nuclear disarmament verification.

In fact, the ban offers a unique opportunity to get this process started sooner rather than later.

States who wish to act on this opportunity could then bring their suggestions to the Meetings of the States Parties introduced in Article 9.

**On Article 9: Meeting of States Parties**

Now, Article 9 [Paragraph 1 (d)] calls for the States Parties to consider proposals “for the verified and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapon programmes.”

In our view, this article could also include language to consider provisions for the development of the tools needed to confirm the completeness declarations, which are to be submitted by former nuclear weapon states.

As you know, this is one of the most daunting challenges of nuclear disarmament verification -- and it is critical for the viability of Articles 2–5.
We offer some specific suggestions to this effect in a working paper to be submitted later this week.

Finally, we think that, as in the CWC, the Meeting of the States Parties may want to consider establishing a “Scientific Advisory Board” and envision temporary working groups of scientific experts to provide guidance and recommendations on specific technical issues.

I’d like to conclude by briefly turning to Article 7.

**On Article 7: National Implementation**

Under Article 7 [Paragraph 1], each State Party is required to “adopt the necessary measures to implement its obligations under this Convention.”

Again, we believe this Article offers an opportunity to strengthen the verification of the treaty by including a “Whistleblower Clause.”

Any system of nuclear verification would gain enormously from access to information that could be provided by scientists and technicians inside nuclear programs, or by ordinary citizens, with regard to possible violations of a treaty.

Article 7 could include a paragraph to require national laws to be passed by member states to make it a responsibility and duty of every citizen to report prohibited activities and to protect those who do so.

This could be a simple, straightforward, and yet very powerful tool to strengthen the verification of the ban treaty and to sustain a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you very much for your attention.