

Mr. Chair,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament, namely Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

We as members of the Stockholm Initiative remain unwavering in our commitment to advance nuclear disarmament under the NPT. We share the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and reaffirm that nuclear weapons should never be used again.

Established in 2019 at the Ministerial level, we, the Stockholm Initiative, are a diverse and bridge-building coalition of engaged non-nuclear-weapon States united in our unequivocal support for the NPT and dedicated to promoting and advancing nuclear disarmament. While our Initiative focuses specifically on disarmament, we reaffirm the mutually reinforcing nature of all three pillars of the NPT: disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology.

The Stockholm Initiative has consistently advocated for practical disarmament measures that can reduce international tensions, improve global security, foster confidence among states and strengthen the NPT. The Initiative's NPT working papers "Stepping Stones for Advancing Nuclear Disarmament" of 2020 and "A Nuclear Risk Reduction Package" of 2022 continue to be central contributions to these efforts.

We underline the need to advance nuclear disarmament and arms control, especially in light of the deteriorating international security environment, ongoing violations of international law, and irresponsible nuclear rhetoric. NPT commitments must be implemented, and obligations must be met.

The Stockholm Initiative will continue its efforts towards strengthening the implementation of Art. VI and towards a successful Review Cycle. We have therefore submitted a working paper titled "Stepping up efforts: toward a successful review cycle" to the NPT PrepCom, which builds on the "Chair's Reflections" from the 2023 PrepCom. The paper provides options and recommendations to the second session of the Preparatory Committee with the aim of working towards a successful review cycle. With this aim in mind, it addresses the main issues identified for the current Review Cycle, such as nuclear disarmament and arms control, international stability, reducing the role of nuclear

weapons in security doctrines, negative security assurances and nuclear-weapons free zones, risk reduction, humanitarian consequences, accountability and transparency, strengthening the review process and several cross-cutting issues.

We invite you to study our Working Paper with the hope that the proposals therein will provide a good basis for further discussions on how we can move ahead with nuclear disarmament efforts, and we welcome the support from State Parties in this regard.

Thank you Mr. Chair.