Statement of Bangladesh during the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, Vienna, Austria

9 December 2014

Mr. Chairman, Thank you very much for giving us the floor. At the outset, we would like to congratulate the Government of Austria for successfully arranging this important conference in this imperial building.

Living in close proximity to three nuclear weapon states, Bangladesh has good reasons to worry about these vicious weapons. Bangladesh believes that nuclear weapons cannot guarantee ultimate security and peace. This can, one the other hand, be guaranteed by people enlightened through education, socio-economic progress and preservation of democratic values and realization of human faculties by peaceful means.

Yesterday we followed expert presentations and they were very clear in cementing the widely accepted idea that any detonation of a nuclear weapon be it accidental or on purpose has a catastrophic impact on human lives. Yesterday we also heard the moving testimonies of the survivors. We sincerely believe that their voices are important for raising awareness and also hope that those voices reached even to those people who could not join us in this room.

Last year in Nayarit, Mexico delegates from 146 countries, representatives from International Organizations, civil society unequivocally stressed the catastrophic impact of nuclear weapons and thus expressed their intentions to eliminate these weapons. Now, we need to find a way to translate those words into actions. Nayarit is of course a step ahead from Oslo where the summary of the Chair wonderfully portrayed through highlighting that it is high time to start a diplomatic process to outlaw nuclear weapons.

Could we for a brief moment ponder on the kind of a world we wish to leave for our next generation? If we do so, the universal response will be to eliminate nuclear weapons and establish a world free of nuclear weapons. The Conference on Disarmament deadlocked for decades, then could move forward to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

We look forward to the summary of the Chair and hope that the summary will portray the pangs of the international community which they have shared with us and we also believe that all states and especially Nuclear Weapon states will take the summary into consideration and act accordingly.

We are confident that such a wide representation of States and Civil Society will contribute to find a world free of Nuclear Weapons. Such a noble initiative cannot go in vain.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.