Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to put on record our deep appreciation to the Government of Austria for the excellent organization of this Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

The Oslo Conference in 2013 concluded that the effects of a nuclear detonation, regardless of its cause, would not be restricted to the borders of the locality of detonation, but that whole peoples and nations would be significantly affected as well. We concluded that it is highly unlikely that any actor or international organization could address the sudden emergency caused by a nuclear detonation in an adequate manner and could provide sufficient assistance to the affected people. In addition, we recognized that it would not be possible to establish such a capacity of assistance, even if we intended to do so.

In Nayarit, last February, experts discussed how damage to public health, environment and development would not be only of local and regional scale but also of global scale. The social and economic development would be seriously hampered and the most vulnerable would be the most severely affected. The reconstruction of infrastructure and the recovery of economic activity would take years. Despite of all these threats, we attested in Nayarit that the risk of the use of nuclear weapons is growing on a global scale as a consequence of proliferation - including vertical proliferation-, the vulnerability at the command and control chains, and the risk of its use by non-State actors. Thus, as an increasing number of countries place nuclear weapons on high alert level, the risks of accidental use - non authorized or intentional- grow significantly.

This escalation of risk is unsustainable. We are dangerously approaching a humanitarian catastrophe to which we simply cannot respond. This is an unacceptable situation.

Mr. Chairman,

The value of the discussion on the evidence presented in former conferences and during this conference brings us to a dilemma: to keep focusing our efforts on those who possess nuclear weapons and on those who wish to acquire them, or to put at the core of our efforts on the human being, recognizing that global security is neither one-dimensional nor associated to the wellbeing of a minority of States in detriment of the rest of nations.
The increasing number of participants at the three conferences and especially the presence of nuclear possessor countries in Vienna, confirms that the international community is more committed with the second option.

This increasing number of States shows that the humanitarian approach must be the foundation for ensuring that nuclear weapons are not used again, under any circumstance. The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should not only be a cause of concern, it should be the fundamental driver for the elimination of nuclear weapons. This is the only sustainable way to remove the risk of these weapons. Moreover, the humanitarian approach should be the central element of all disarmament processes.

Mr. Chairman,

From the perspective of Mexico and many other countries, as well as representatives of civil society and academia, to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, and to promote disarmament, we need new norms and standards to forbid the development, production, transfer and use of these weapons.

No process is predestined to be extended indefinitely. The series of conferences on the humanitarian impact is not an exception. The three conferences organized so far have made a significant contribution, with scientific evidence and irrefutable data, for a better understanding of the impact and risk of a single nuclear detonation. The discussions and conclusions should now feed a diplomatic process leading to the negotiation and conclusion of a legally binding instrument for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. The timeframe, the forum and the framework for action to achieve this goal should be determined, as it was stated at the Chair’s Summary at the Nayarit Conference last February.

There is never a good moment to act until there is one. Mexico invites all States to seriously consider this course of action, as proof of commitment with the very survival of humankind.

We will be expecting the conclusions that you, Mr. Chairman, will draw form the presentations and findings put forward by the experts who guided our reflections during these two days, as well as from the national positions presented at this conference.

Thank you.