Thank you Co-Chairs,

On behalf of the Government of Samoa, I join others in conveying our sincere appreciation to the Government of Austria for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation and for the opportunity to participate in the Vienna Conference. We also thank UNDP for their assistance in facilitating our participation.

The programme has been comprehensive and enlightening and has broadened our knowledge on the various consequences of nuclear weapons. I thank the organizers for facilitating the testimonies of the victims of the nuclear blasts in Hiroshima and the nuclear tests in our own region— in the Marshall Islands and Australia. It is the lives and testimonies of these courageous people that drive and incentivize important discussions like this one and move us closer to the ultimate goal of a nuclear-free world for our future generations.

Co-Chairs,

Samoa has always maintained that the only guarantee humankind has against the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons, is through the total elimination of all nuclear weapons. Samoa was represented at the Second Meeting in Nayarit where we reconfirmed our support for a comprehensive international treaty on the abolition of nuclear weapons. And we continue to call on Member States to initiate expeditiously the necessary process towards the early realization of this goal.

While promoting a comprehensive treaty, we believe that in negotiating a text, due consideration should be given to the often limited capacity of the non-nuclear weapon small Island States like ours with regards to reporting obligations. As such, whatever shape or form a treaty on the abolition of nuclear weapons may end up looking like, the reporting process for States, particularly non-nuclear States, should be one that is simple and un-burdensome.
Co-Chairs,

We have benefited over these last two days from the presentations on the multi-sector consequences of nuclear weapons, in particular the effects on the global climate, famine and health, and have heard the alarming list of human and technical factors that can facilitate deliberate or inadvertent nuclear weapons use. It is evidently clear that the current state of our world's natural environment cannot and will not be able to handle any such threats.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with no military and an unarmed police force, Samoa is extremely vulnerable to actions by others with no means of counteracting the effects of nuclear devastation. SIDS continue to grapple with sustainable development challenges due to their size, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks amongst other reasons. The multi-sector consequences that were presented yesterday only reconfirm the vulnerability and inability of our Small Island States to effectively protect themselves from any effects of nuclear weapons.

Co-Chairs,

The fact that the Pacific was used as a nuclear testing ground has given us a shared point of reference that has shaped our perspectives when discussing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. That is why we believe that Nuclear weapons by their very existence, for whatever principled reason or fundamental justification, pose “needless” and “unintended” threats especially to non-nuclear weapon island states like mine.

In this regard, we hope to finalize a process by which States can begin negotiating a legally binding instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Thank you Co-Chairs.