

## **Launch of the Report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament– ICNND- in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

### **Welcome Remarks**

Distinguished guests, on behalf of the Nonproliferation for Global Security Foundation and of myself, I add my voice to Ambassador Richardson's remarks to welcome you to the launch in Argentina of the **Report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament– ICNND**.

Nuclear weapons are not an exclusive issue of states that possess them; they matter to the entire global community.

Because of today's global dynamics, no state would be exempt of devastating impacts should an incident with nuclear weapons occur, anywhere in the world.

As long as nuclear weapons are perceived as a paradigm of power, prestige, and political status, the nuclear threat will stay among us and, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get rid of it. Therefore, it is necessary to work to change such paradigm.

In order to move forward on it, it is important to accept that disarmament and nonproliferation are integrated parts of a system of reciprocal influences. If nuclear-armed states (be them inside or outside of the NPT) are not eager to accept reductions on their arsenals, it is understandable to get in non nuclear weapons states resistances to accept more restrictions to their rights.

To overcome such dilemma it is necessary to intensify efforts in order to reach a global consensus, which could help make disarmament and nonproliferation advance together, while protecting each nation's right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology. In this sense, a litmus test will be the next May NPT's Conference of Revision.

In contrast with the belief that non nuclear weapons states can do very little, or nothing, to promote a progressive disarmament until their ultimate elimination, Australia and Japan have taken with courage the initiative of getting together wills, and of facilitating decision making processes at a global level, in order to advance on that path, without undervaluing benefits of civil nuclear technology.

The **International Commission on Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament's** work, promoted by both Governments, which have counted on the participation of opinion leaders and experts from many states, with and without nuclear weapons, is a virtuous example of plurality, consult, and excellence.

The Report we present today contains a bunch of practical recommendations which, with no doubt, will be an essential reference for decisions and actions by Governments, multilateral organizations and civil society. I invite you to read it in detail, as you will find on it innovative ideas and concrete proposals, which cover all the topic's edges.

Nevertheless there is still very much to do, and the ICNND's work encourages us to walk these steps.

The NPSGlobal Foundation congratulates the Governments of Australia and Japan, while keeps working to promote contributions from Latin America to help reduce the nuclear danger worldwide.

Thank you.

**Irma Arguello is Chair of the Nonproliferation for Global Security Foundation - NPSGlobal**