

## **Intervention by Ireland at OEWG on Raising Awareness**

Mr Chairman,

Thank you, I would like to comment on the important issue of raising awareness.

Yesterday, at the side event where Setsuko Thurlow also spoke, Dr Ira Helfand talked about how the enormity of nuclear disarmament can seem “overwhelming” and he spoke about how to motivate others to relate to the issues and to see how they can make a positive personal contribution.

This has been a really useful session and a good opportunity for us to share what creative approaches we are taking nationally and internationally in terms of raising public awareness. We have listened with interest to the ideas and information shared by other delegates.

The possible negative impact of film was mentioned by the colleague from El Salvador in his very thoughtful intervention. Ireland is hoping to tap into the potential for positive impact from film by organising a nuclear disarmament film festival. We see this as one way to reach a wider and younger audience.

In this regard, my delegation has been very struck by the number of young people here this week, including with the International Youth Peace Group and ICAN and we want to welcome all of the engagement by younger delegates, recognising too that most of them are here volunteering their free time to make a positive contribution to the work of this OEWG.

We need the creativity of their approach and their energy. I note, for example, the great work of ICAN Austria and their interactive twitter map, which Laura Kmentt and her colleagues brought here and have on display outside this room. I encourage everyone to go and take a look at it.

As Setsuko Thurlow said earlier when she spoke so movingly about the names of her lost classmates, these “visual aids are important” for us never to lose sight of the importance of our work here and never to forget both our shared history and our common future.

Thank you.