

We, the Foreign Ministers of Norway and Poland, welcome the increased international attention to nuclear disarmament. Yesterday in Prague, Presidents Obama and Medvedev signed a milestone agreement on strategic arms reduction, a concrete manifestation of the nuclear weapon states' determination to fulfil their disarmament commitments.

The progress in the field of strategic arms reduction also highlights the challenge posed by other categories of nuclear weapons. The reduction and elimination of sub-strategic nuclear arsenals have not yet been the subject of any legally binding international agreement. The goal of a world without nuclear weapons cannot be met unless this issue, too, is addressed in multilateral as well as bilateral formats.

NATO should raise the issue of the inclusion of tactical nuclear arsenals in the arms control framework without delay. We look forward to discussing the Alliance's possible contributions in the field of nuclear arms control and disarmament at the foreign ministers meeting in Tallinn later this month. Today we discussed a joint Norwegian-Polish initiative addressing the subject of sub-strategic arsenals. We agreed on a set of specific proposals that, in our view, could contribute to the debate on NATO's deterrence policy and facilitate the inclusion of tactical nuclear weapons in the broader arms control and nuclear disarmament process. In short, we suggest a step-by-step approach, including transparency and confidence-building measures as well as balanced and mutual arms reductions. Our aim is to find an approach that is both flexible and realistic.

We are convinced that the Alliance will not benefit from unilateral actions in the field of sub-strategic nuclear weapons. Reciprocity and mutually agreed measures are called for. NATO's deterrence policy and military posture have always been, and should continue to be, the subject of thorough consultations between all Allies.

Jonas Gahr Støre

Radoslaw Sikorski