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PANEL ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN SCIENCE AND VERIFICATION

Andreas Persbo, Executive Director.

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Good afternoon everyone and welcome to this afternoon panel on the nexus between science and verification. My name is Andreas Persbo and I am the Executive Director of the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. For those who don't know us, the organization focuses on the verification, monitoring and implementation of international agreements. We are headquartered near the financial district of London, but conduct our work around the world. I, myself, am a lawyer, and have been looking at test-ban issues for the last eight years or so.

I have three speakers for you today. I will introduce them now, and then let them speak for about 15 minutes each. I am going to hold all discussion until after they have all finished.

Our first speaker is Paul Richards, Mellon Professor Of Natural Sciences, Emeritus, at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory outside New York. The Lamont Campus has been at the forefront of science for decades.

Professor Richards has won numerous awards for his decade long contribution to science, and has almost 150 peer-reviewed publications under his belt by now, spanning more than three decades. He started to write about test-ban issues in the 1980s and was later a member of the US negotiation team.

Mr Richards will be followed by Svein Mykkeltveit. He is the Program Coordinator for Verification Activities at the NORSTAR research foundation in Norway. He mostly works on the CTBT, but also participates in the work of the UK-Norway Initiative on verified warhead dismantlement. Mr Mykkeltveit has authored scientific papers on seismological monitoring technologies and co-authored books on the CTBT. Since 1997, he has served as Friend of the Chair of the verification working group of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. In addition, he is a very good friend of mine. It is a pleasure to be on the same panel as you Svein.

Turning now to our final speaker. Mr Randy Bell serves as the Director of the Office of Nuclear Detonation Detection at the US Department of Energy. This office maintains and builds the United States network of sensors designed to detect nuclear explosions in all environment. Mr Bell started his career in the US Navy on fast attack submarines, but decided to surface in 1991. He joined the DOE and has focused on nuclear issues ever since. His career is distinguished and has earned him, amongst other things, an Exceptional Service Award for leadership of the US remote sensing demonstration in Kazakhstan.

You have many decades of experience before you now and I would urge you to use it. Sir Francis Bacon



once stated: “Who questions much, shall learn much, and retain much.” Having said that, I would also ask you to keep your remarks crisp; matter-of-fact and without unnecessary detail. That way, I am sure everyone will get the opportunity to comment once or twice.

OK. I am now eager to start our journey. So, I’d like to give the floor to Professor Richards to lead us off.