

Written Statement of the Government of Norway

Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The State Secretary

Oslo 10 June 1994

International Court of Justice
Peace Palace
2517 KJ The Hague
The Netherlands

Statement by Norway relating to the request by the WHO for an
Advisory Opinion on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons
in armed conflict.

Reference is made to the International Court of Justice's order of 13 September 1993 in which member countries are invited to submit written statements to the Court concerning the request from the World Health Organization (WHO) for an advisory opinion regarding the legality of the use of nuclear weapons in armed conflicts.

The Norwegian Government's main concern is how the international community can build lasting political commitments which will ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used. It is our view that this can best be achieved through negotiations and agreements on further reductions and ultimately about the elimination of all nuclear stockpiles. To be fully effective, such agreements must comprise reliable and strict verification and control measures and must become binding for all nuclear and non-nuclear powers.

In the view of the Norwegian Government, the Court should, in assessing the matter further, place great emphasis on these considerations.

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