Statement from Pugwash President and Pugwash Secretary General
23 July 2011

Our thoughts are with the people of Norway today, as news of the terror and devastation in Oslo and in Utoeya island spreads across the globe. We note with deep sadness the apparent deliberate targeting of young people seeking to become engaged in the political process. In December 1995 the leadership of Pugwash stood with the citizens of Norway, celebrating the awarding in Oslo of the Nobel Peace Prize to our organization. Today the global Pugwash community stands with our Norwegian friends. We send condolences to the bereaved families and express our solidarity with the Norwegian Pugwash Group.

Acts of terrorism cannot detract from the world’s efforts for peace. The Norwegian government’s strong and courageous leadership in creating a more just and equitable world is unparalleled. If anything, such wanton acts of violence only serve to recommit good people around the world to ongoing efforts to eliminate the causes of terrorism, to control the spread of conventional arms, to promote dialogue over military confrontation.

Jayantha Dhanapala    Paolo Cotta-Ramusino
President     Secretary General