

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and previous Review Conference outcomes

Report submitted by the Netherlands

1. The Kingdom of the Netherlands hereby submits its national report in accordance with the requirements stated in action 20 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. The present report describes the activities the Netherlands, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, has undertaken to contribute to the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. In the view of the Netherlands all three pillars are of equal importance.
3. The Netherlands policy towards nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy is reflected in the recent letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Frans Timmermans, to the House of Parliament on 24 October 2013.
4. The Netherlands is an active member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In the European Union, the Netherlands participates in the CONOP (concept of operations) working group and other forms of European Union cooperation related to this field. In NATO, the activities of the Netherlands also include work related to the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. The Netherlands further participates in the work of the Vienna Group of Ten which has submitted a Working Paper to the Preparatory Committee on six topics for consideration.
5. Through its membership in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative the Netherlands is actively engaged to further nuclear disarmament and strengthen nuclear non-proliferation. The group of 12 countries (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates) is promoting the implementation of the 2010



Non-Proliferation Treaty Action Plan in a practical manner, while taking into account the current international security environment. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative has submitted to the Preparatory Committee a total of 16 working papers for deliberation and organized a number of side events.

Pillar I. Nuclear disarmament (actions 1 to 22)

6. The Netherlands has, with the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, submitted several working papers on issues related to nuclear disarmament. These include papers on increased transparency on non-strategic nuclear weapons, on reduction in the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines, on nuclear-weapon-free zones and negative security assurances and on de-alerting ([NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.3](#), WP.4 and WP.24; and [NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.6](#), respectively). Early in the Review Cycle, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative provided the nuclear-weapons States a draft reporting form on transparency on nuclear arsenals to be used for their reporting under action 21 ([NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.12](#)).

7. In the context of the NATO Russia Council, the Netherlands hosted a three-day workshop in June 2013 in The Hague on the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines. The workshop was organized to contribute to improving mutual understanding and building trust. Each of the four participating nuclear-weapon States made a presentation.

8. The Netherlands has as Co-Chair for the session on transparency and verification and as “friend of the Chair” participated in the Open-Ended Working Group “to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons”.

9. The Netherlands has actively participated in activities to promote the immediate start of negotiations of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. In 2012, the Netherlands, together with Germany, organized two scientific expert workshops on a treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear weapons in Geneva. A Netherlands expert participates in the Group of Governmental Experts which started in April 2014 and which is tasked to make recommendations on possible elements of a treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. The Netherlands further provided the Office of Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, on a cost-free basis, an expert for the duration of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to support its work. Furthermore, the Netherlands actively supports the activities of the International Panel on Fissile Material. For several years, the Netherlands has hosted presentations by the Panel of its yearly report, as side events of the Conferences of Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

10. The Netherlands played a leading role in 1996 in drawing up the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a key element of the disarmament architecture. It has since made numerous efforts to promote the entry into force of the treaty. From the outset, in 2002, the Netherlands has been a member of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, a group of countries that every second year organizes a conference during the meeting of the General Assembly to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

11. In anticipation of the entry into force of the treaty, the Netherlands has helped to set up the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna. Netherlands experts are closely involved in establishing the International Monitoring System of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. A Netherlands expert chairs the working group responsible for setting up that system. The Netherlands is a donor to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and provides funds for participation by experts from developing countries in the working group. Together with Kazakhstan, the Netherlands organized an international conference, in The Hague, on 30 August 2011, on nuclear safety and non-proliferation, entitled “Nuclear dilemmas: Present and future” as an outreach event to call for ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

12. The Netherlands is a strong supporter of civil society, which plays an important role in the effective functioning of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan. The Netherlands supported the Reaching Critical Will programme of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, a non-governmental organization that monitors the implementation of the Action Plan in the form of an annual report. The Netherlands also contributes financially to and cooperates with the Netherlands-based non-governmental organization PAX (“PAX for Peace”) on Non-Proliferation Treaty-related issues.

13. The Netherlands provided financial support to think tanks like Wilton Park and the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, in organizing their Non-Proliferation Treaty workshops that bring participants together in the run-up to the Preparatory Committees of this review cycle. In September 2012, the Netherlands also partly funded and participated in a non-proliferation conference organized by the Centre for Energy and Security Studies in Moscow.

14. The Netherlands considers the education of the younger generation on disarmament issues of great importance. To further this goal, the Netherlands financially supports the training programme at the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, as well as the summer school programmes on weapons of mass destruction organized by the Netherlands Asser Institute. The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has further funded three PhD research projects on disarmament and non-proliferation, to train the next generation of experts in this field. Some of these PhD researchers have been part of the Netherlands delegation to the respective Preparatory Committees in this review cycle.

15. The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has, besides its regular presentations and briefings to university and other students, sent a student reporter to participate in the youth exchange programme at the time of the Hiroshima Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative ministerial meeting of April 2014. Her task was to reach out to her generation and tell them of her experiences on what Hiroshima means in the nuclear world, and why nuclear disarmament is so important. The Ministry also financially supported the participation of a representative of the non-governmental organization PAX.

Pillar II. Nuclear non-proliferation (actions 23 to 46 of the Action Plan)

16. The Netherlands has a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in place, complemented by an Additional Protocol and considers the combination of these

two the verification standard. The Netherlands has supported the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with a voluntary contribution of €100,000 to organize outreach and training courses, and provide technical support, to interested Member States on the Additional Protocol. Such workshops and seminars were organized for Latin American and Caribbean States, as well as some South Asian States, among them Myanmar. The Netherlands has, through the combined efforts of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative members, also reached out to States without an Additional Protocol. Their Ministers for Foreign Affairs sent a joint letter on the need for universalization and offered, in cooperation with IAEA, their countries' practical assistance, best practices and know-how.

17. The Netherlands supports IAEA in its efforts to develop and implement a less mechanistic safeguards system that better takes into account State-specific factors and that facilitates a more efficient and cost-effective use of the limited resources of IAEA. To this end, the Netherlands contributes, also as a member State of the European Union, to developing the State-level concept. The Netherlands gave this issue its full support when it was a member of the Board of Governors, from September 2009 to September 2012.

18. The Netherlands is 1 of the 21 member States of IAEA that supports further developments in safeguards and verification in practical terms by means of a voluntary member State support programme, which aims to provide IAEA with technical expertise to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards system. The Netherlands contribution to this programme for 2013-2014 is €100,000 annually.

19. The Netherlands supports the E3+3, led by European Union High Representative Ashton, to reach a negotiated solution to address the international community's concerns regarding the exclusively peaceful nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran nuclear programme. The Netherlands has contributed €300,000 to IAEA in order to carry out their role of verifying the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action. Although the Joint Plan of Action is a first confidence-building step to address the most urgent concerns, efforts must now be aimed at producing a comprehensive and final settlement.

20. Strengthening the system of robust export controls is of importance to the Netherlands. The European Union Dual-Use Export Regulation and the Dutch General Customs Act and Strategic Goods Decree prescribe that nuclear materials (uranium and plutonium) and goods that can be used to manufacture such materials must be licensed. Goods that can, directly or indirectly, contribute to the development and production of nuclear weapons or their delivery systems are also subject to export controls. The Netherlands is an active member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, of which group it was Chair in 2011-2012.

21. The basic principles of the Netherlands export control policy on dual-use goods, including nuclear goods, are set out in the government response to the European Commission on the dual-use export control system of the European Union Green Paper and the report on the written consultations on the subject, adopted on 21 October 2011. Together with its European Union partners, the Netherlands is working for clear, strict agreements on and implementation of export controls. The Netherlands also held, until recently, the Chair of the sub-working group on non-proliferation of the European Nuclear Energy Forum.

22. Under the umbrella of the Global Partnership of the G8, the Netherlands participates in projects with and in Kazakhstan to seek, remove and safely dispose of radiological sources. The current project amounts to \$1.65 million.

Pillar III. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (actions 47 to 64 of the Action Plan)

23. The Netherlands attaches great importance to the prevention of nuclear terrorism and the strengthening of nuclear security. The Netherlands was proud to host the Nuclear Security Summit that took place in The Hague on 24 and 25 March 2014. Central points of the Nuclear Security Summit process are the commitment to reduce the amount of the most sensitive nuclear materials, to enhance the security of all nuclear material and radioactive sources and to improve international cooperation. A total of 58 world leaders committed to the communiqué which contains, in addition to the work done in Seoul in 2012, a number of new themes that were addressed. The Nuclear Security Summit communiqué confirmed the central role of IAEA and gave a more comprehensive overview of the existing international nuclear security architecture. There was also the introduction of confidence-building measures. Although nuclear security is a matter of national concern, leaders recognized that States can take voluntary measures in order to increase the confidence of other States in their nuclear security. Leaders also committed to minimizing stocks of plutonium. Another new element was the increased emphasis on the relationship between States and the nuclear industry.

24. During the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, in close cooperation with the former hosts the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, launched an initiative to strengthen implementation of nuclear security. The initiative commits States to implement, as appropriate, the intent of the IAEA recommendations contained in Nuclear Security Series 13, 14 and 15. Two thirds of the countries that participated in the Nuclear Security Summit (35) committed themselves to this initiative.

25. Furthermore, the initiative commits States to improve the effectiveness of their nuclear security regimes and operators' systems by hosting peer reviews (notably International Physical Protection Advisory Service missions) periodically. International Physical Protection Advisory Service missions use the IAEA recommendations as reference for their security review. The Netherlands is the first country in the world that hosted such missions in all its facilities and invited a follow-up mission in 2012 to review the implementation of earlier International Physical Protection Advisory Service recommendations. The Netherlands also supports other types of peer reviews, like the Integrated Regulatory Review missions. The Netherlands is now performing a self-assessment and will receive an Integrated Regulatory Review mission at the end of 2014.

26. In a separate meeting during the Nuclear Security Summit, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other representatives of the participating countries discussed a wider range of nuclear subjects, which included disarmament and non-proliferation.

27. In addition to the Nuclear Security Summit, three official side events took place. The Netherlands Institute of International Relations, known as Clingendael, took the lead in organizing the Nuclear Knowledge Summit, which brought together academia, think tanks and researchers. Urenco led the organization of the Nuclear Industry Summit, a high-level event for Chief Executive Officers from the nuclear industry worldwide. In February, an international tabletop exercise, @tomic 2014,

held in Maastricht, sought to promote cooperation between countries and expert communities in enhancing radiological and nuclear security and on preventing radiological and nuclear terrorism.

28. In 2011, the Netherlands ratified the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The Netherlands granted IAEA an additional €100,000 to support its work on the universalization of the amendment to the Convention in the run-up to the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague.

29. The Netherlands had earlier, as reported to the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, started the process of conversion from highly enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium targets for the production of medical isotopes.

30. As an expression of its strong support for the work of IAEA in the field of nuclear security, the Netherlands contributed an amount of €1 million to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.

31. The Netherlands also awarded the World Institute for Nuclear Security a grant of €100,000 for the start-up of the internationally certified training course for professionals in the field of nuclear security.

32. The Netherlands, through the European Union, has provided a financial contribution to the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, convinced it will facilitate cooperation as enshrined in article IV of the Treaty.

33. The Netherlands is a strong believer in peer reviews, as it holds up a mirror to national review mechanisms and provides assurances to the international community. In the aftermath of Fukushima, the Netherlands has strongly advocated the mandatory nature of safety peer review missions in the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The Netherlands participated in the sixth Peer Review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety held in Vienna from 24 March to 4 April 2014. It presented the safety situation in the Netherlands and, in particular, the post-Fukushima measures taken. The results of the meeting are summarized in the Summary Report, published on the IAEA website.

Other topics

34. The Netherlands has consistently reaffirmed its support for the process for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The Netherlands recognizes the importance of this process in the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Cycle. The Netherlands continues to support the ongoing preparations for a successful Conference and the Facilitator and his team once again for their tireless efforts in this regard. The Netherlands is one of the main financial contributors to the yearly conference on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, organized by the Arab Institute of Security Studies in Jordan.
