

# 2020 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 that the Netherlands, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, has undertaken since the 2015 Review Conference 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 ultimate goal for the Netherlands is, and remains, a world without nuclear weapons. The importance of achieving this goal has only been re-emphasized by the growing international tensions and risks, for example as a consequence of the emergence of new and potentially destabilizing technologies. The Netherlands has long considered that the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons necessitate the prevention of a nuclear conflict, and that the only certain way to do so is through the complete elimination of nuclear weapons through the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
4. Until that complete elimination has been achieved, however, the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons mean that we must ensure that nuclear risks are minimized, especially in times of geopolitical tensions. The Netherlands has actively promoted the discussion on nuclear risk reduction in the context of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as well as in other relevant forums. To facilitate an informed and inclusive dialogue on this issue, the Netherlands commissioned a research project by Clingendael – the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, which has catalogued and categorized different approaches to nuclear risk reduction. The Netherlands then initiated follow-up research into particular risk reduction options carried out by the British American Security Information Council, King's College and the Clingendael Institute. The Netherlands actively supports the discussion on



elaborating measures to prevent escalation of conflicts, to establish new crisis communication centres and joint risk assessment centres and to prevent any unintended use of nuclear weapons.

5. The Netherlands is an active member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In this context, the activities of the Netherlands also include work related to the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda, as well as nuclear risk reduction and nuclear disarmament verification. These efforts are complemented and reinforced by the task that the Netherlands fulfils within the NATO nuclear-sharing arrangements, which have always been fully consistent with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. NATO is fully committed to the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty, and NATO dramatically reduced the number of nuclear weapons stationed in Europe after the end of the cold war, but it will remain a nuclear alliance until the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is achieved, meaning that the Netherlands regards nuclear disarmament as a reciprocal, cooperative, step-by-step process that guarantees undiminished security for all.

6. In the European Union, the Netherlands participates in the working parties on non-proliferation (CONOP), global disarmament and arms control (CODUN) and conventional arms exports (COARM) and in other forms of European Union cooperation related to this field.

7. Through its membership in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, the Netherlands is actively engaged in furthering nuclear disarmament and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation. The group of 12 countries (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Turkey and United Arab Emirates) is promoting the implementation of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty action plan in a practical and realistic manner. Since the start of the current review cycle, the Initiative has submitted 15 working papers for deliberation by the Preparatory Committee and has organized a number of side events. In September 2021, The Initiative submitted the paper on recommendations to the tenth Review Conference for deliberation at the tenth Review Conference. Since January 2021, the Netherlands has taken over the role of coordinator of the Initiative for a period of two years (2021–2022).

8. In its role as Chair of the 2017 session of the Preparatory Committee, the Netherlands has worked towards further increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the review cycle, including by maximizing the continuity of the process by initiating extensive cooperation and coordination with the Chairs of the other preparatory committees and the President-designate of the 2022 Review Conference.

9. The Netherlands, as Chair, has held broad consultations, including by conducting regional outreach meetings. These meetings were held in Dakar on 20 and 21 February 2017, in Jakarta on 13 and 14 March 2017 and in Santiago on 16 and 17 March 2017, co-hosted by and with the generous cooperation of the Governments of Senegal, Indonesia and Chile. The meetings consisted of round-table discussions as well as panel presentations by regional experts.

10. By enabling consultations with over 100 countries, most of them at the capital level, these meetings allowed the Chair to conduct a global dialogue on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, greatly increasing its inclusivity and the transparency of the work of the Chair. The discussions contributed to an increased focus on regional dynamics and approaches relating to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and reinforced, across the board, the notion that while different States and regions may have varying priorities under the comprehensive framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Treaty's shared objectives serve the interests of all its States parties. The practice of holding regional consultations has been continued by the Chair of the 2018 Preparatory Committee and the President of the 2020 Review Conference. The

Netherlands is actively sharing best practices and experiences in this regard. In 2021, in its capacity as Chair of the Main Committee III, on peaceful uses, the Netherlands organized a side-event in the margins of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference: “Perspectives for peaceful uses, a lot to gain”.

11. As Chair, the Netherlands has issued an extensive substantive summary of the debates held during the 2017 session of the Preparatory Committee, as well as a set of reflections which it considers have provided a starting point for further discussions and for finding common ground in the review cycle. The Netherlands has issued two sets of recommendations to the Preparatory Committee in its capacity as Chair of the 2017 session, including together with the Chair (Poland) of the 2018 session.

#### **Pillar I. Nuclear disarmament (actions 1 to 22)**

12. The Netherlands is working actively, within the framework of the obligations of the Netherlands as a member of the North Atlantic Alliance, to rid the world of nuclear weapons in view of the great risks associated with nuclear proliferation, in accordance with the governing coalition’s agreement and on the basis of the guidelines set out in the letter to Parliament of 21 June 2018 regarding the Netherlands position of and activities related to nuclear disarmament (Parliamentary Paper 33694, No. 20). On the international level, the Netherlands has demonstrated its continuing commitment to the principle of comprehensive, irreversible and verifiable disarmament through statements and support for resolutions at various multilateral platforms including during the review cycle and meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly, as well as through its actions described in the paragraphs below.

13. The Netherlands independently confirmed Russia’s violation of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. Both bilaterally and multilaterally, the Netherlands has therefore urged Russia to return to full and verifiable compliance, and when Russia failed to do so, the Netherlands supported the United States’ decision to withdraw from the Treaty. The Netherlands and NATO allies have responded in a balanced and proportional manner, have repeated their commitment to arms control and the prevention of a destabilizing arms race, and remain open for dialogue on this topic when Russia’s actions make that possible.

14. The Netherlands welcomes the extension of the New START Treaty and encourages continued dialogue among nuclear-weapon States aimed at the expansion of such arrangements to contribute to strategic stability. The Netherlands further welcomes the statement by some members of the Permanent Five (P5) on the principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and should not be fought, and encourage a joint P5 statement on such issue.

15. The Netherlands actively supports the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on nuclear disarmament, a fissile material cut-off treaty and negative security assurances. In this context, the Netherlands has supported the work of the working group on the “way ahead” (2017), as well as subsidiary body 1, on nuclear disarmament, and subsidiary body 4, on negative security assurances, to discuss international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as part of the Conference in 2018. In 2019, the Netherlands submitted a working paper, entitled “Back to basics – the programme of work” (CD/2165), in an attempt to rationalize the organization of work, so that more time can be spent on the substantive work of the Conference on nuclear disarmament, a fissile material cut-off treaty and negative security assurances. The Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs attends the Conference on Disarmament every year.

16. The support for disarmament is clearly reflected in the position of the Netherlands in international forums. In the context of both the European Union and NATO, the Netherlands has promoted strong language in communiqués and has

organized several briefings. Furthermore, the Netherlands is an active participant of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, with which it has submitted several working papers, organized side events and released statements on issues related to nuclear disarmament.

17. The Netherlands participated actively in the 2013–2014 conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, where it also shared the outcomes of research conducted by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, which was aimed at improving the understanding of especially late health effects of radiation exposure. The Netherlands also participated in 2016 in the Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, to which it contributed by issuing several working papers both alone and with other States. The Netherlands participated constructively in the 2017 negotiations on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, proposing various amendments to improve the draft treaty text, but could not support its results in the end. The Netherlands has clearly and repeatedly given its reasons for this position (see Parliamentary Papers 33783, Nos. 24, 26, 29 and 31).

18. Supporting the United States initiative Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament, the Netherlands co-chairs with Morocco a working group focusing on perceived incentives for States to retain, acquire or increase their holdings of nuclear weapons and on increasing incentives to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons. The group will explicitly not deal with or create conditions for disarmament. It will conduct its work in addition to, not as a replacement of, the pursuit of other disarmament steps.

19. The Netherlands actively participated in ministerial meetings in Stockholm and Berlin in 2019 and 2020 and contributed to the resulting declarations on nuclear disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Netherlands supports the list of “stepping stones” in the annex of the Berlin declaration as a set of useful steps that should be taken by the States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty towards and during the Review Conference.

#### *Nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties*

20. The Netherlands has consistently shown support for all resolutions related to nuclear-weapon-free zones during the current review cycle (seventy-first, seventy-second, seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions of the General Assembly), including the resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East; Mongolia’s international security and nuclear-weapon-free status; the African Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty; the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia; the fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, 2020; a nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas; and consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a party to the Additional Protocol to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and supports the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean by financing two internships for candidates from that region every year.

#### *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty*

21. The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a key element of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and played a leading role in 1996 in drawing up the Treaty. It actively encourages States that are not yet parties to the Treaty to declare and uphold a moratorium on nuclear testing.

22. The Netherlands calls upon all States, in particular annex II countries, to become parties to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and has made numerous efforts to promote its entry into force. The Netherlands is a founding member of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, a group of countries that promotes the entry into force of the Treaty and organizes ministerial conferences biannually on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. The Netherlands has issued strong statements at the ministerial level and, in the context of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, has made recommendations to promote the entry into force of the Treaty at meetings of the review cycle of the Non-Proliferation Treaty ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.3](#)). The Netherlands has furthermore organized informal discussions at a ministerial level with like-minded States on “Continuing the push for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty while strengthening the existing architecture”.

23. The Netherlands has helped to set up the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna. Netherlands experts are involved in finalizing the International Monitoring System of that organization. The European Union has provided considerable extrabudgetary funding for the completion of the System. To strengthen cooperation and national capacity under the verification regime, the Netherlands signed a memorandum of understanding with Belgium and Luxemburg in 2018, formalizing an exchange of expertise. This memorandum is the first example of such regional cooperation under the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and contributes to confidence in verifiability of the Treaty.

#### *Fissile material cut-off treaty*

24. The Netherlands continues to attach great importance to a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as a crucial instrument to realize non-proliferation and disarmament objectives. To that end, it co-authored the resolution on establishing the United Nations high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group. The expert preparatory group consensus report, in combination with the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, lays the groundwork for the negotiation of the Treaty. Furthermore, in the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, the Netherlands was Coordinator of subsidiary body 2, which focused on furthering substantive discussions on a ban of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. Together with the other members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, the Netherlands submitted a working paper detailing practical steps to move towards implementation of a fissile material cut-off treaty ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.6](#)). The Netherlands continues to push for an early start of negotiations for such a treaty in the Conference on Disarmament.

#### *Nuclear disarmament verification*

25. With a view to increasing confidence, improving transparency and developing efficient verification capabilities for nuclear disarmament, the Netherlands was one of the initial sponsors of the 2016 and 2019 General Assembly resolutions that created the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification. The Netherlands was an active participant in that Group of Governmental Experts, including through the contribution of working papers.

26. Furthermore, the Netherlands has been a member of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification since its inception. In this connection, it has been Co-Chair of working groups 1 and 4, and has participated actively in all other working groups with both technical and political contributions.

In this way, the Netherlands has contributed to the outcomes of the Partnership in the first two phases of its work, and is now closely involved in setting up the third phase.

27. The Netherlands hosted a Partnership working group meeting in Utrecht in June 2019, attended by representatives from over 20 countries. The meeting included a full-day walkthrough exercise and a technology demonstration. In addition, the Netherlands has financially supported activities of the Nuclear Threat Initiative in support of the Partnership and commissioned a verification-related research project on high-explosive detection methods by the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research. Furthermore, the Netherlands has financially contributed to a research project by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, which aims to demonstrate in practice an innovative approach to disarmament and arms control based on verifying the absence of nuclear weapons. This project can benefit the work of the Partnership in the future, since there is complementarity between this work to develop a detailed scenario for an inspection to confirm the absence of nuclear weapons at a military facility and broader nuclear disarmament verification discussions.

#### *Transparency and reporting*

28. To increase transparency under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Netherlands submitted a first version of the present national report to the 2019 session of the Preparatory Committee. The report was discussed with members of Dutch civil society. Their comments were taken into account when updating the report before the 2020 Review Conference.

29. The Netherlands actively promotes transparency and reporting by other States through its participation in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative. In this context, it has contributed to several working papers detailing the importance of transparency and reporting, most notably by nuclear-weapon States, for the review cycle. The reports include recommendations on the integration of a more thorough discussion of national reports at meetings of the review process, as well as a matrix for countries to use as a helpful tool and guideline for reporting ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.17](#), [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.24](#) and [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.26](#)). The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative has organized transparency-related side events at the Preparatory Committee sessions and has conducted several consultations with the nuclear-weapon States on the issue of transparency, based on extensive analysis of their reports, where possible. This includes the active participation of the members of the Initiative at the 2019 Wilton Park discussion on the Non-Proliferation Treaty report of the United Kingdom.

#### *Education*

30. The Netherlands attaches great importance to education to ensure that future generations possess the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to continue the non-proliferation and disarmament process, as reflected in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education and awareness-raising ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.16](#)). The Netherlands has finalized a project consisting of sponsoring three doctoral research projects on the topic of nuclear arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. In addition, the Netherlands has contributed to research projects of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, focusing on the 1995 indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and on emerging technologies and disarmament. Furthermore, the Netherlands contributes to projects of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which provides a platform for independent analysis and dialogue in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Netherlands cooperates with research

institutes, think tanks and universities on projects, including two on nuclear risk reduction.

31. The Netherlands Government is financing the creation of a new professorship on the law of arms control at the Asser Institute for international affairs, in a cooperative effort with the University of Amsterdam. This project intends to set up a permanent knowledge centre in the Netherlands for issues of arms control, which will focus on dedicated academic research, education and international cooperation with other institutes.

32. To stress its commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Netherlands has been engaged in considerable outreach to civil society. To this end, at the national level, the Netherlands has participated in round tables, attended conferences and participated in panels and workshops set up by Netherlands non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, the Netherlands has participated in the Netherlands-Poland seminar on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, held at the Polish Embassy in The Hague on 14 September 2018 and 29 October 2021. Besides national outreach, the Netherlands has been active at several international conferences and has contributed to meetings at Wilton Park, the nuclear conferences of the Carnegie Foundation in Washington, D.C., and the Center for Energy and Security Studies in Moscow, the Nuclear Threat Initiative Global Enterprise to Strengthen Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and meetings of the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, as well as the Amman Security Forum, organized by the Arab Institute for Security Studies in Jordan. The Netherlands has worked closely with the Nuclear Threat Initiative and the African, Asia-Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean leadership networks in setting up the panel meetings at the 2017 regional conferences on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Government has also provided several lectures at the Asser Institute summer programme on disarmament and non-proliferation and funds several scholarships in developing countries for participants.

33. The Netherlands set up a nuclear disarmament colloquium in Geneva on 15 April 2019 to allow for an in-depth discussion between academics, experts and policymakers on issues of nuclear disarmament, in particular focusing on the concept of creating an environment that is more conducive to nuclear disarmament.

## **Pillar II. Nuclear non-proliferation (actions 23 to 46)**

34. The Netherlands participates in the work of the Vienna Group of Ten, which has submitted a working paper to the Preparatory Committee on seven topics for consideration, namely, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, compliance and verification, export controls, cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The initiative aims to submit an additional paper to the 2022 Review Conference.

### *Nuclear safeguards*

35. The Netherlands has a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in place, complemented by an Additional Protocol and considers the combination of these two the verification standard. In addition to fulfilling its assessed regular budgetary contributions fully and on time, the Netherlands has supported IAEA with a voluntary contribution of €100,000 to organize outreach and training courses, and has provided technical support on the Additional Protocol to interested Member States. The Netherlands will carry out joint démarches with a group of States constituting the Friends of the Additional Protocol to call upon countries to sign and ratify a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol. Furthermore, in

both national and European Union statements, the Netherlands has consistently called for other States to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol.

36. 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 fully endorses, bilaterally as well with the European Union, the further development and application of the State-level concept by IAEA.

37. The Netherlands is 1 of the 21 IAEA member States 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 has contributed significantly to this programme. Furthermore, the Netherlands contributed to several working papers in the context of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, stressing the importance of nuclear safeguards for a world without nuclear weapons and conserving nuclear energy for peaceful uses exclusively ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.29](#)).

38. The Netherlands has consistently joined the international community in addressing cases of countries that are in non-compliance with their Treaty obligations (Syria, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran) in relevant international forums, such as the United Nations General Assembly, the IAEA General Conference and the IAEA Board of Governors, as well as through implementation of the relevant sanctions regimes imposed by the United Nations Security Council and the European Union.

39. The Netherlands fully supports the efforts of the European Union and the E3+2 in relation to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Today, the Netherlands consistently reaffirms support for the Plan of Action in all relevant forums, also after the withdrawal of the United States. The Netherlands regrets said withdrawal and called upon the United States to return to the agreement. The Netherlands also consistently called upon Iran to return to full compliance with its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The Plan of Action is very important for nuclear non-proliferation and remains of significant security interest to the Netherlands. In support of the Plan of Action implementation, the Netherlands has contributed €1,000,000 to the IAEA verification programme in Iran. In addition, to further nuclear cooperation with Iran, the Netherlands promoted use of the procurement channel as an effective monitoring mechanism for Iran's nuclear-related imports. In 2018, the Netherlands acted as a facilitator of the discussion on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Furthermore, at the end of 2019 the Netherlands, together with Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, committed to becoming a shareholder in the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges. At the beginning of 2020, the Netherlands became a shareholder in the Instrument.

40. The Netherlands fully supports all efforts towards denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its return into compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and therefore promotes the effective, complete and worldwide implementation of the regime of sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Since its presidency of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#), the Netherlands has organized a series of information meetings to provide insight into the sanctions regime, such as the expert meeting on the implementation of maritime sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, held in March 2021. In addition, the Netherlands has



funded various projects, such as the project of the Small Arms Survey “Strengthening implementation and enforcement of the arms embargo on North Korea”, that provide implementation and enforcement assistance in the form of research, training, workshops and reports. At the national level, the Netherlands adopted the North Korea Sanctions Order 2017, in line with the latest European Union legislation of 2017.

#### *Export controls*

41. In order to help to ensure that nuclear-related exports do not lead to proliferation, the Netherlands is an active member in all export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which it chaired in 2011–2012, the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement. The Netherlands consistently reports its denials to the respective export control regimes and, within the European Union framework, to all other European Union member States. The Netherlands bases such decisions on the European Union regulation on dual-use items (Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009) and applicable sanction regulations.

42. Strengthening the system of robust export controls is of importance to the Netherlands. The European Union dual-use export regulation and the Netherlands General Customs Act, as well as the 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.

43. When making decisions regarding the export of nuclear-related goods, the Netherlands ensures that the safeguards and compliance records of recipient States are taken into account. When deciding on granting an export licence, security concerns always prevail over economic interest. Each licence application is handled on a case-by-case basis, involving a risk-assessment based on: the sensitivity of the goods; a general assessment of the recipient State, including its track record in non-proliferation commitments; the potential risk of unwanted end use; the plausibility of the stated end use and end user; Government-to-Government assurances; and the risk of diversion.

44. When determining whether or not to engage in nuclear cooperation with a State, the Netherlands closely assesses nuclear security in the recipient State, including its adherence to international non-proliferation obligations, safeguard agreements and other assurances.

#### **Pillar III. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (actions 47 to 64)**

45. The Netherlands considers that nothing in the Non-Proliferation Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all States parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty.

46. The Netherlands also considers that while it is the prerogative of each State to establish its own national energy policy, including fuel cycle policies, in accordance with its national requirements and taking into account relevant international obligations, the use of nuclear energy is facilitated, at all stages, by commitments to and ongoing implementation of the highest standards of nuclear safety and security, as well as effective safeguards with full transparency. Together with the Government of Nigeria and the United States Department of Energy, the Netherlands organized a side event during the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security (10–4 February 2020) on the nexus between the peaceful use of nuclear energy and nuclear security.

47. The Netherlands attaches great importance to the peaceful non-power applications of nuclear science and technology, which could play a role in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative has issued a working paper on promoting access to nuclear energy for developing countries ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.26](#)). In this regard, the Netherlands has reached out to development practitioners beyond the nuclear fields.

48. The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the IAEA technical cooperation programme. Since 2015, the Netherlands has contributed more than €6,000,000 in support of development activities undertaken under the programme and ensures that it pays its voluntary assessed contributions fully and on time. The Netherlands furthermore supports the IAEA Seibersdorf Laboratories and contributed €400,000 in 2019 to the second phase of the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL2) project for the refurbishment of the laboratories. In addition, since 2020 the Netherlands has contributed €1.5 million to the COVID-19 test kit programme and €1 million to projects related to nuclear security. Lastly, in 2020, the Netherlands contributed €250,000 to the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, which aims to help to increase the number of women in the nuclear field.

49. The Netherlands organized a side event at the 2018 Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, on the conversion of high-enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium in the production of medical isotopes together with Belgium and Australia, as well as a side event on the restoration of cultural heritage entitled “Atoms for heritage” together with Brazil, Egypt and France.

50. To strengthen the physical protection of its nuclear facilities, the Netherlands has implemented a physical protection regime, fully in line with its international obligations and agreements. The Netherlands has invited IAEA to conduct International Physical Protection Advisory Service missions. Recommendations of these missions have been implemented and good practices have been shared. Similarly, the Netherlands has fully implemented the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment. Currently, the Netherlands is actively involved in preparations for the 2022 conference of States Parties to review the implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities.

51. The Netherlands promotes the strengthening of nuclear security globally and has lived up to its commitments made in the Nuclear Security Summit process 2010–2016. A milestone achievement has been the conversion of the research reactor in Petten in 2018, which now uses only low-enriched uranium for the production of medical isotopes. The Netherlands is, both nationally and through the European Union, an important financial contributor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. The Netherlands promotes and supports IAEA in its central role in coordinating international coordination and providing assistance, developing guidance and building capacity.

52. The Netherlands encourages cooperation and information-sharing between organizations and initiatives involved in capacity-building for nuclear security, including IAEA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the European Union, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and Interpol.

53. To combat illicit trafficking of nuclear material, the Netherlands actively supports and uses the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database and the Unified System for Information Exchange in Incidents and Emergencies, and advocates better use of

both of these valuable mechanisms. The Incident and Trafficking Database is the IAEA information system on incidents of illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive material outside of regulatory control. The Database helps participating States and selected international organizations to combat illicit nuclear trafficking and strengthen nuclear security.

54. The Netherlands is a party to and has fully implemented the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and, in this context, participated in the 2017 meeting of States parties and signatories marking the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention.

55. The Netherlands supports the highest standards of nuclear safety and is a party to and implements all relevant treaties in the area of nuclear safety, including but not limited to: the Convention on Nuclear Safety; the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident; the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency; and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and of Radioactive Waste Management.

### **Other topics**

56. 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 review cycle and has extensively consulted on this issue as Chair of the 2017 session of the Preparatory Committee, including in the region itself. The Netherlands is one of the main financial contributors to the annual Nuclear Security Forum in the Middle East, organized by the Arab Institute for Security Studies in Jordan, which focuses much of its efforts on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

57. The Netherlands has actively encouraged the discussion among the States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty on efforts to strengthen the Treaty's review cycle by making it more effective and efficient, both in its capacity as the Chair of the 2017 session of the Preparatory Committee, as well as that of coordinator (since January 2021) of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

58. The Netherlands fully supports efforts to ensure the full and effective participation of women and to further integrate a gender perspective in all aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation decision-making processes. It has consistently supported including calls to this end in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other documents, and has a positive track record in ensuring a gender balance in its own delegations and meetings.

59. The Netherlands support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the review cycle are clearly reflected in its chairing of the 2017 session of the Preparatory Committee as well as its vice-presidency of the 2022 Review Conference. The reaffirmed commitment of the Netherlands, and all States parties to the Treaty, is further elaborated on in the reflections of the Chair and in the Chair's summary. Despite disagreement over the pace of its implementation, the Treaty continues to represent shared objectives. With the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force in 2020, it is essential to identify areas where progress is possible and cooperate in order to move forward.