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STATEMENT BY
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to the Conference on Disarmament

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Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons

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Statement by The Netherlands in the First Committee of Sixty-Fifth Session of the UNGA Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Chairman,

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made by the EU. From a national point of view, we would like to add the following observations.

The Netherlands is glad to see continued momentum in global disarmament and non-proliferation, illustrated inter alia by the successful outcome of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010. We welcome the agreement on follow-on action plans on all three pillars of the NPT and the agreement to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle-East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. These results demonstrate our common resolve not only to uphold, but also to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

We now need to start implementing the action plans, we have to built further on the results of the Review Conference and continue the spirit of consensus and cooperation that characterised the NPT negotiations. The Netherlands is dedicated to contribute actively to these ends and will work on developing concrete and practical measures. In this regard, I would like to refer to the joint statement of 22 September 2010 by the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands to take forward the consensus outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and jointly to advance the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agendas. These agendas are mutually reinforcing processes and must be balanced as they are ‘two sides of the same coin’.

One of the concrete measures the Netherlands will consider, together with these countries, is how to contribute most effectively to the development of the “standard reporting form” for use by Nuclear Weapons States in meeting their commitments to report their nuclear disarmament undertakings to the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting.

We will support all efforts to promote early entry into force of the CTBT, and support the development of its verification system, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the
moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions pending entry into force of the Treaty. We also strongly encourage the negotiation and development of a FMCT while urging all states possessing nuclear weapons to declare and maintain a moratorium on the productions of fissile material for weapons purposes. As a part of these efforts, we will help to develop approaches to issues such as verification which would support implementation of an FMCT through dialogue with others.

We will also explore ways of enhancing cooperation with the IAEA as a means of promoting the IAEA’s outreach activities, particularly in those states which have yet to conclude and implement a CSA and AP with a view to contributing to the universalisation of the AP.

The Netherlands will, together with other countries, encourage all states to promote to the greatest extent possible disarmament and non-proliferation education to raise public awareness in order to advance our goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

We stand ready during this First Committee to work with all delegations to consolidate and build on the success of the Review Conference, which, without doubt, will be reflected in various First Committee resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

The Netherlands commends Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for his personal commitment to the cause of disarmament and arms control. We see the convening of the High Level Meeting (HLM) on 24 September as another proof of his welcome endeavours to further progress. We welcome the outcome of the HLM and see it as a starting point for continuing discussions.

As stated by the Netherlands during the HLM, the current deadlock in the CD is unacceptable and follow-up to the HLM is therefore essential both inside and outside the CD. We have to remember that the early start of disarmament negotiations must remain our goal and if these negotiations are unable to begin in the CD we may have to look for alternative ways to make progress. We intend to actively engage in consultations on the follow-up to the HLM during this years First Committee and thereafter.

Thank you