STATEMENT BY

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The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement of the EU.

Non-Proliferation

Mr. Chairman,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation system and is essential for pursuing nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI, and non-proliferation. The NPT is also important for furthering the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. After a successful Review Conference in 2010, which resulted in a bold new Action Plan, we should now move forward to the swift implementation of the Action Plan. The IAEA plays a crucial role in this. The Netherlands reaffirms its strong commitment to promote the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol as the international verification standards. The Netherlands supports, also through financial contributions, IAEA-actions aimed at the universalization of the Additional Protocol. We very much welcome the adoption of the safeguards resolution at the IAEA General Conference last month.

In cooperation with the other nine States of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, the Netherlands will continue to work on formulating innovative, practical steps to implement the 2010 Action Plan. The Netherlands is pleased to be hosting the next Ministerial Meeting of the NPDI in April next year, at which we will finalise the NDPI’s preparations for the NPT’s Second Preparatory Committee Meeting.

The Netherlands regards concluding a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty as an indispensable step towards a world free of nuclear weapons and an important contribution to non-proliferation. We stress the importance of starting negotiations for a treaty and urge states to overcome the continued deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament, which has up until now hindered the commencement of such negotiations. Recently the Netherlands and Germany have jointly organised scientific experts meetings in Geneva with a view to contribute to an early start of FMCT negotiations. In the absence of a treaty, the Netherlands continues to call upon states to declare and apply an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material, and to dismantle or convert to non-explosive use only the facilities dedicated to the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

The Netherlands attaches great importance to the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the completion of its verification regime. The Netherlands has presented Dr Hein Haak as its candidate for the post of Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, for which the election will take place in Vienna on 23 October. Another indication of the importance we attach to the Treaty and its organisation. Dr Haak is very dedicated to the promotion of universal support for the CTBT, to the further development of a credible verification system and to make the CTBTO an effective and efficient organisation.
Nuclear Security

The IAEA plays a crucial role in nuclear security. The Netherlands therefore welcomes the adoption of a nuclear security resolution in the General Conference of the IAEA. This contributed to further anchoring nuclear security to the work of the IAEA. We believe that the excellent work done by the IAEA in the last decade for all Member States should be consolidated and expanded. The 2013 conference entitled “International Conference on Nuclear Security: enhancing Global Efforts” will offer a very good opportunity to take a further step in this respect.

The Netherlands is strongly committed to global nuclear security and the fight against nuclear terrorism. The Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, in which 53 countries and 4 international organisations participated, was a great success. We would like to seize this occasion to express once again our gratitude to the government of the Republic of Korea for their impressive and successful work. In Seoul, progress was made on a wide range of topics concerning global nuclear security. Amongst others, we agreed on the minimisation of highly enriched uranium, the inclusion in the mandate of the NSS of the protection of radiological sources, and the synergy between nuclear safety and security. The Netherlands is honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to global security by hosting the third Nuclear Security Summit, which will take place in the World Forum in The Hague in March 2014. The objective of the Summit process is to raise awareness about the risks of nuclear terrorism, to work towards reinforced commitment to concrete measures, and to give a push to the implementation of nuclear security, thereby fully supporting the work of the IAEA in that area.

Regional issues (Iran, Syria, North-Korea)

The Netherlands is seriously concerned with the steady progress made by Iran in its uranium enrichment and heavy water related activities and its lack of cooperation with the IAEA, in particular relating to the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme. The burden of proof is on Iran to convince the international community of the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

Iran should comply with its international obligations and implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors. In that regard, we urge Iran to implement confidence-building steps, including suspension of all its enrichment and heavy water related activities, including research and development, fully implement its Safeguards Agreement, and bring into force the Additional Protocol. Moreover, Iran must provide total transparency on its nuclear programme and fully cooperate with the IAEA in order to resolve all outstanding issues.

The Netherlands supports the efforts of China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, UK, and US – led by the EU High Representative Lady Ashton – to engage Iran in a meaningful diplomatic process and calls upon Iran to urgently take the necessary confidence building steps.

Last year the Netherlands expressed concern about the non-compliance of the Syrian Arab Republic with its safeguards obligations under the NPT. Unfortunately, Syria has failed to undertake steps to remedy its non-compliance, as was required by the IAEA Board of Governors.
The Netherlands therefore once again urges Syria to fully cooperate with the IAEA to resolve all open questions. Also in the present situation the Syrian authorities remain responsible for urgently remedying their non-compliance with their Safeguards Agreement.

The Netherlands is deeply concerned about the nuclear programme of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The Netherlands deplores the decision made by the Government of the DPRK not to cooperate with the IAEA. North Korea should work progressively towards compliance with its international obligations under the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the IAEA.

Conclusion

Mr Chairman,

To conclude, the Netherlands is strongly committed to non-proliferation, arms control, disarmament as well as the furthering of peaceful use of nuclear energy. We need progress in all of these areas to enhance international peace and stability. Over the years, non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament and peaceful uses have been central elements of our foreign policy. We therefore fully subscribe to the important work of the First Committee and we intend to contribute to its work again this year with a cooperative and forward-looking spirit.