Statement by Ambassador Paul van den IJssel

Head of delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the 1st Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review conference

General Debate

Check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join others in congratulating you on your election as chair of this PrepCom and assure you of our full support. The Netherlands fully associates itself with the Statement by the European Union as well as to the statement by Turkey on behalf of the NPDI.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament

Disarmament and Arms reduction (actions 1, 3, 4, 5)
While the nuclear weapon states should take the lead in the process of disarmament and arms reduction we, the non-nuclear-weapon states, also have an important contribution to make.

The Netherlands has always advocated a phased step-by-step approach to disarmament and has contributed actively to all multilateral processes in order to take further steps towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

With regard to action 4 we welcome the entry into force of the new START treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. The Netherlands would encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to work towards further comprehensive reductions on all categories of their nuclear arsenal.

Transparency and irreversibility (actions 2, 19, 20, 21)
Increased transparency, irreversibility and verifiability are essential for sustainable disarmament. Also here non-nuclear-weapon states have a role to play. The Netherlands, together with other countries of the NPDI, has contributed to the implementation of action 21 by proposing a draft standard nuclear disarmament reporting form.

We are convinced that increased transparency of nuclear-weapons-related data is essential to achieve more progress in nuclear disarmament and its verification. We encourage NWS to continue to work towards greater transparency and we look forward to a continued dialogue on this issue.

Conference on Disarmament (actions 6, 7, 15)
The Netherlands continues to be very worried about the continued stalemate in the CD and the lack of implementation of actions 6, 7 and 15. The credibility and legitimacy of the CD as a body for multilateral disarmament negotiations, is at stake.

Last year’s session of the General Assembly demonstrated the growing concern of many delegations about the state of the multilateral disarmament machinery, and the CD in particular. Resolution A/RES/66/66, which The Netherlands tabled together with South-Africa and Switzerland and that was adopted by consensus, clearly states that the General Assembly is ready to further explore options for
multilateral negotiations, if the CD is again unable to adopt and implement a programme of work this year.

**Fissile Material (actions 16, 17, 18)**
The fact that the CD is in a stalemate and negotiations on an FMCT have not yet started should not prevent any of us to take further steps in the implementation of actions 16, 17 and 18 related to fissile material.

To contribute to preparations for eventual FMCT-negotiations the Netherlands will organise together with Germany two expert side events on FMCT.

**CTBT (actions 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)**
Pursuant to action 13 the Netherlands is committed to universalizing the CTBT and promoting its early entry-into-force. We recognize the security and civil benefits of the CTBT verification system, including the International Monitoring System and feel that the scope for expanding civilian use of the Monitoring System in other areas of early warning and emergency response should be explored. We will continue to utilize diplomatic opportunities to urge states to sign and ratify the CTBT.

**Non-Proliferation & Disarmament Education (action 22)**
The Netherlands believes that the continued involvement of a broad well-informed civil and academic society is essential in order to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, spur arms control efforts and enable long term disarmament commitments.

For us these are not just words. We have included in our delegation 2 PHD students, who by their presence at this conference get a firsthand impression of our work and of the NPT Review Cycle. Let us hope this impression is a positive one.

**Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Actions 23 to 46)**
Today, the proliferation of nuclear weapons is one of the gravest threats to international peace and stability. I am thinking in particular of Iran and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

**Compliance (Actions 26 and 27)**
Iran needs to restore international confidence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. We need transparency about the full extent of its nuclear programme – especially of its programme’s possible military dimensions. Iran needs to meet its international obligations, as laid down in several IAEA Board of Governors and UN Security Council Resolutions.

We strongly condemn the recent missile launch by the DPRK, which constitutes a clear violation of that country’s international obligations. These and other activities are of grave concern. We urge the DPRK to return to the six-party talks and to accept IAEA safeguards for all its nuclear facilities.

**Verification and safeguards (actions 28 and 29)**
The Netherlands has had a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with an Additional Protocol in force for many years. For the Netherlands this represents the current verification standard. In order to obtain an environment conducive to cooperation, a framework of confidence is needed. As The Netherlands applies the most stringent safeguards measures in its nuclear installations, we expect no less of others.

We are therefore actively promoting the universalization of the AP. We have just finalized an extra-budgetary grant to the IAEA of €100,000 to assist the Agency in its efforts in this regard. Furthermore, through our Safeguards Support Programme we have among others contributed to ECAS and the development of Novel Technologies. We will continue to do so.

Export Controls (Actions 35, 36 and 37)
Nuclear export controls are a legitimate, necessary and desirable means of implementing States' Party obligations under Article III and States' Party rights under article IV of the Treaty. The Netherlands is committed to uphold the highest standards of export controls and committed to full transparency in that field. As Chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group the Netherlands has carried numerous outreach activities to promote its guidelines and understandings.

Nuclear Security (Actions 40, 41, 42, 44 and 45)
Furthermore, nuclear terrorism is a real threat with grave consequences. We must do everything in our power to make sure terrorists never get their hands on nuclear material. This is a fundamental objective of Dutch foreign policy. In meeting this challenge, international cooperation is vital. The Netherlands is fully committed to the implementation of the Communiqués and Work Plan and of the Washington and Seoul Nuclear Security Summits. These give an impulse to the actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and to the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan. We are therefore honoured to host the next Summit in the Netherlands in 2014.

In accordance with Action 42, the Netherlands in 2011 ratified the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and it calls on those States that have not yet done so to ratify as soon as possible. Similarly, we are implementing Action 61 by working towards the elimination of the use of HEU-targets in the production of medical isotopes – HEU fuel has already been eliminated. At the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, we have pledged that this process should be finished in 2015.

Peaceful Uses
The Netherlands fully recognizes the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy (Art IV), in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty. Further views are set out in the conference paper submitted by the Vienna Group of 10 (Working paper 2 of the PrepCom). I will not repeat those views here, but I will focus on the Dutch implementation of the actions of the RevCon 2010.

IAEA TC (action 52 – 54)
Central to the promotion of peaceful uses is the Technical Cooperation programme of the IAEA. We have worked towards strengthening the programme, including
through increases in efficiency and effectiveness. We commend the Agency for its important work on nuclear energy, cancer treatment, water management, agriculture and other areas. We cooperate with the Agency in the implementation of TC. This includes training and technology transfer to scientists from IAEA Member States by the Reactor Institute Delft which is an IAEA Collaborating Centre. The Reactor Institute Delft also houses the Dutch National Center for Radiation Protection which provides a broad spectrum of radiation safety courses.

*Bilateral efforts (actions 48-51)*

In addition we have engaged in bilateral cooperation in different ways. We work with others to secure the worldwide supply of medical isotopes – of which the Netherlands currently produces 40%. And as another example: we are providing an accelerator to Ghana and have provided the relevant training to Ghana.

*Safety*

We are party to the safety conventions and a civil liability regime as called for in Actions 59 and 63. Events following the tsunami in Japan in March 2011 have shown that strong universal implementation of the safety conventions and continuous improvements are essential.

Mr. Chairman,

Non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control have always been and will remain cornerstones of Dutch foreign policy, with the Non-Proliferation Treaty as our foundation and the Action Plan as our roadmap. This is an essential part of our commitment to strengthen international law and security. For us, non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament are facets of the same diamond. The Netherlands will continue to make innovative, practical proposals to implement the 2010 Action Plan.