Statement by H.E. Ambassador Paul van den IJssel, Kingdom of the Netherlands

2nd session NPT prepcom, Cluster 2

Mr Chairman,

In addition to the points made in our statement in the General debate and while aligning ourselves fully to the statement made by the EU and the papers by NPDI and the Vienna Group of 10, I would like to make the following remarks on Cluster 2 issues.

Let me stress again that the Netherlands considers the proliferation of nuclear weapons as one of the gravest threats to international peace and stability. I am thinking in particular of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Iran, but let’s not forget outstanding issues concerning Syria. I have dwelt on this topic in our earlier statement.

Let me also underline the importance we attach to verification and safeguards. For the Netherlands the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, supplemented by the Additional Protocol represents the international standard for verification. Verification by this standard provides trust and the confidence that nuclear materials are exclusively used for peaceful means. This is conducive to an environment in which international cooperation, on all nuclear issues, including nuclear disarmament, can flourish. The Netherlands applies the most stringent safeguards measures in its nuclear installations and we call upon all States that have not concluded an Additional Protocol yet, to do so without delay. We see the continuous development of an ever more effective verification mechanism as an important task in the field of nonproliferation. We therefore must not shy away from improvements and new technical capabilities that can help us in this regard. The Netherlands welcomes these new developments, and is in favor of a verification concept that incorporates this, such as the State-level concept.

The Netherlands is actively promoting the universalization of the AP in concrete ways. Not only by means of the ongoing extra-budgetary grant to the IAEA in order to assist the Agency in its efforts in this regard, but we also stand ready to assist to those Member States interested, to share our
experiences and best practices. This also applies to providing practical or legal assistance.

The Netherlands further attaches great importance to the universal adherence to other key non-proliferation instruments. Very much in the same vein as our commitment to the AP, The Netherlands actively advocates universal adherence to the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), offering assistance to interested countries and also granted the IAEA extra-budgetary means for its work on this Convention.

Mr Chairman

On nuclear security. Let me repeat that The Netherlands is honored to host the next NSS summit in 2014. In the NSS context, we are working on several deliverables. Among them, reduction of use and better security of HEU, the entry into force of the CPPNM (for which we still need 33 ratifications), an increased use of the IPPAS advisory missions of IAEA, better security of radioactive sources, better cooperation between government and industry in order to promote a security culture and better implementation. And last but not least, we are exploring possibilities to introduce elements of mutual confidence by countries. This can be done by effective implementation of the existing legally binding and voluntary measures to enhance nuclear security, as well as possible new elements such as voluntary peer reviews.

The NL will host 3 major side events as well. One is table top exercise, called @tomic, in February 2014 on decision making on nuclear security. The second one is a Nuclear Industry Summit and the third one a nuclear knowledge summit.

Returning to the 2010 Action Plan, we can report that we are implementing Action 61 by halting the use of HEU-targets in the production of medical isotopes. The use of HEU fuel had already been stopped some time ago, and at the last Nuclear Security Summit we pledged to stop using HEU for targets in 2015.

Preventing nuclear terrorism by continuously improving the security of nuclear materials is a matter that deserves global attention. We therefore warmly welcome the invitation by the IAEA to the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security in July 2013 and we encourage all States to support this important conference. The IAEA has a central and essential role to play with regard to nuclear security and we are fully supportive of that. In this context I would like to draw the attention of delegates to the joint working paper of Spain, Morocco and The Netherlands "ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT NUCLEAR TERRORISM: A NEW DIMENSION OF
NON PROLIFERATION that was introduced by the Ambassador of Spain in our session last Friday.

Thank you Mr Chairman.