

Preparatory Committee for the 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 Netherlands is an active member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). 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. In NATO, the activities of the Netherlands also include work related to the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda as well as nuclear risk reduction.
4. 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 10 working papers for deliberation at the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee and has organized a number of side events. Working paper [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.24](#) in particular contains recommendations for strengthening the review process for the 2020 Review Conference.



5. 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 through initiating extensive cooperation and coordination with the Chairs of the other preparatory committees and the President-designate of the 2020 Review Conference.

6. The Netherlands has increased the inclusivity and transparency of its work as Chair by holding 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.

7. 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 a set of recommendations to the Preparatory Committee, on which it will follow up together with the Chair (Poland) of the 2018 session.

Pillar I. Nuclear disarmament (actions 1 to 22)

8. 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 its governing coalition's agreement and on the basis of the guidelines set out in the letter to Parliament of 21 June 2018 regarding the position of the Netherlands on nuclear disarmament (Parliamentary Paper 33694, No. 20) and the activities described in the letter. 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.

9. The Netherlands actively supports the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on nuclear disarmament 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.

10. 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.

11. The Netherlands participated actively in 2016 in the Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, to which it has 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.

Nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties

12. The Netherlands has consistently shown support for all resolutions related to nuclear-weapon-free zones during the current review cycle (seventy-first, seventy-second and seventy-third 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

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

14. The Netherlands actively encourages all States to become parties to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and has made numerous efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty, including through its support for the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. From the outset, in 2002, it has been a member of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, a group of countries that organizes ministerial conferences biannually on the margins of the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to promote the entry into force of the Treaty. At the ministerial level, the Netherlands has issued strong statements at these meetings. Also, in the context of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, the Netherlands 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](#)).

15. In anticipation of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 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

16. 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 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 discussion 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

17. 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 General Assembly resolution that stood at the inception of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and has subsequently been an active participant in this Group, including through the contribution of working papers.

18. 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. The Netherlands will host a Partnership working group meeting in June 2019. 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.

Transparency and reporting

19. To increase transparency under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Netherlands is submitting the present national report to the Preparatory Committee and will issue an updated report before the 2020 Review Conference.

20. 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 ([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 2017 and 2018 sessions of the Preparatory Committee, and has conducted several consultations with the nuclear-weapon States on the issue of transparency.

Education

21. 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 a research project of the Erasmus University of

Rotterdam, focused on the 1995 indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. 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.

22. 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. 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.

23. The Netherlands has set up a nuclear disarmament colloquium in Geneva on 15 April 2019 to allow for an in-depth discussion between 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)

24. 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.

Nuclear safeguards

25. 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 the International Atomic Energy Agency (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 has, through the combined efforts of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, also reached out to States without an additional protocol. Their Ministers for Foreign Affairs sent a joint letter on the need for universalization, and, in cooperation with IAEA, they offered practical assistance and shared their best practices and know-how. 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.

26. 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 the IAEA.

27. 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 €500,000 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](#)).

28. 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) in relevant international forums, such as the United Nations General Assembly, the IAEA General Conference and IAEA Board of Governors, as well as through implementation of the relevant sanctions regimes imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

29. 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 Plan of Action is very important for nuclear non-proliferation and 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.

30. 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. As Chair 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, and has insisted on an implementation assistance notice on humanitarian aid. In the context of capacity-building, the Netherlands has launched the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Sanctions Capacity-Building Coordination Mechanism, which aims at coordinating international activities in the field of sanction implementation and seeks to bring together supply and demand. The Netherlands has had an exemplary role in combatting sanction evasion, internationally recognized by the Panel of Experts. At the national level, the Netherlands has adopted the North Korea Sanctions Order 2017, in line with the latest European Union legislation of 2017.

Export controls

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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 license, security concerns always prevail over economic interest. Each license 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.

34. 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)

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. The Netherlands attaches great importance to the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, which can 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.

38. 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 to pay its voluntary assessed contributions fully and in time.

39. 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, as well as a side event on the restoration of cultural heritage entitled “Atoms for heritage”.

40. 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 in the Netherlands. 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 2021 conference of States Parties to review the implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities.

41. The Netherlands has lived up to commitments made in the Nuclear Security Summit process 2010–2016, including by the conversion of the research reactor in Petten, which now uses only low-enriched uranium for the production of medical isotopes. The Netherlands further actively contributes to the international efforts with regard to minimization of the use of high-enriched uranium. The Netherlands is, both nationally and through the European Union, an important financial contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund.

42. To combat illicit trafficking of nuclear material, the Netherlands actively supports and uses the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database, as well as the Unified System for Information Exchange in Incidents and Emergencies, and advocates better use of both of these valuable mechanisms.

43. The Netherlands is a party to and has fully implemented the International Convention on 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.

44. 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

45. 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.

46. 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 the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael (Clingendael Institute), 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.

47. 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 2020 Review Conference. The reaffirmed commitment of the Netherlands, and all States party to the Treaty, are further elaborated on in the reflections of the Chair and 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.
