

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 ultimate goal for the Netherlands is, and remains, a world without nuclear weapons. The importance of achieving this goal has only been re-emphasized by the growing international tensions and risks, for example as a consequence of the emergence of new and potentially destabilizing technologies. The Netherlands has long considered that the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons necessitate the prevention of a nuclear conflict, and that the only certain way to do so is through the complete elimination of nuclear weapons through the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
4. Until that complete elimination has been achieved, however, the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons mean that we must ensure that nuclear risks are minimized, especially in times of geopolitical tensions. 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 Clingendael – the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, 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. The Netherlands actively supports the discussion on



elaborating measures to prevent escalation of conflicts, to establish new crisis communication centres and joint risk assessment centres and to prevent any unintended use of nuclear weapons.

5. The Netherlands is an active member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In this context, the activities of the Netherlands also include work related to the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda, as well as nuclear risk reduction and nuclear disarmament verification. These efforts are complemented and reinforced by the task that the Netherlands fulfils within the NATO nuclear-sharing arrangements, which have always been fully consistent with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. NATO is fully committed to the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty, and NATO dramatically reduced the number of nuclear weapons stationed in Europe after the end of the cold war, but it will remain a nuclear alliance until the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is achieved, meaning that the Netherlands regards nuclear disarmament as a reciprocal, cooperative, step-by-step process that guarantees undiminished security for all.

6. 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.

7. 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 15 working papers for deliberation by the Preparatory Committee and has organized a number of side events.
