



2nd session NPT PrepCom, Geneva

**Statement on behalf of Australia, Canada, Chile,
Germany, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland,
Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, members of
the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative
(NPDI)**

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General Debate

Check against delivery

**Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative
Joint Statement to the second NPT PrepCom**

(Geneva, 22 April- 3 May 2013)

Thank you Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the countries of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) – Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates – I would first and foremost like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this Second Preparatory Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, and assure you of the full support of the NPDI countries in making this PrepCom a success under your leadership.

Mr Chairperson,

The NPDI convened at ministerial level in The Hague on April 9th. NPDI members reaffirmed their shared commitment to take forward the consensus outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and to jointly advance the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agendas as mutually reinforcing processes.

We, the NPDI, also reaffirmed our shared commitment to the NPT as the essential foundation for the achievement of nuclear disarmament, as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and as the basis for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for those who choose to do so. We stress the importance of universal adherence to the NPT and call on all States not party to the Treaty to accede to it immediately as Non-Nuclear Weapon States.

The countries of the NPDI met in The Hague with the aim to give further impetus to our contribution to the NPT PrepCom. At the meeting the ministers reaffirmed their deep commitment to actively implement the Action Plan agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. NPDI Ministers further reconfirmed the Group's commitment to actively contribute to the work of this PrepCom including by submitting, for further elaboration by all State parties, working papers on reducing the role of nuclear weapons, non-strategic nuclear weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT), on the wider application of safeguards, nuclear weapons-free zones and export controls, as well as an update of last year's working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr Chairperson,

Since its establishment in September 2010, the NPDI has strived for **systematic and continued reduction of all nuclear weapons**, including non-strategic nuclear weapons, by all Nuclear Weapon States, in a pragmatic and step by step approach aiming at their total elimination. While we welcome the ongoing implementation of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) by the United States and the Russian Federation, we call upon all Nuclear Weapon States to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, in an irreversible, transparent and verifiable way. In particular, we urge the inclusion of non-strategic nuclear weapons in any future nuclear disarmament processes.

The NPDI attaches great importance to **transparency** as a vital confidence-building measure on disarmament. In accordance with Actions 5 and 21 of the Action Plan, we proposed to the Nuclear Weapon States in 2011 a draft reporting form that aims to provide details regarding their efforts to fulfill their disarmament commitments under NPT Article VI. The NPDI will continue to encourage the Nuclear Weapon States to take practical steps on transparency concerning their nuclear weapons. We take note of the continuing discussions among the Nuclear Weapon States about the issue of transparency, verification and mutual confidence, in support of their undertaking to report to the 2014 NPT PrepCom. We look forward hearing more about the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Nuclear Weapon States, here in Geneva, in particular on accelerated implementation of and greater transparency on these issues.

The NPDI further emphasizes the importance of **reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons** in military and nuclear doctrines. To stimulate the debate on this subject, we have submitted a working paper to the PrepCom on this topic and we will organize a seminar in the margins of the meeting. Steps towards reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons are important contributions towards the goal of complete nuclear disarmament and will be mutually reinforcing with further quantitative reductions.

We reiterate our deep concern and frustration with the **continued stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament (CD)**. The CD must agree on and implement a comprehensive Program of Work that will start substantive work on the CD's four core issues. We welcome the outcome of last year's session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly that could contribute to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament, especially in the view of the continued stalemate in the disarmament machinery as a whole.

Three important resolutions were adopted at the 67th session of the General Assembly in December last year, on the establishment of a group of governmental experts to make recommendations on aspects contributing to a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (67/53); on the establishment of an open-ended working group to develop proposals for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons (67/56); and on the establishment of a High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament (67/39). We hope these new developments give a much needed impetus to the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation agendas.

The immediate commencement of negotiations on a verifiable treaty to ban the production of **fissile material** for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices **remains a priority for disarmament and non-proliferation efforts**. Such a treaty remains an essential step towards a world without nuclear weapons. Pending such negotiations, all States possessing nuclear weapons should declare and maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

The NPDI also firmly believes that universalization and early entry into force of the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** are essential steps to achieve nuclear disarmament. We welcome the ratification of the Treaty this year by Brunei Darussalam and Chad, bringing the total of ratifications to 159. The recent nuclear test by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) once again underscores the importance of the ratification and entry into force of the Treaty. We appeal urgently to all countries that have not yet become Parties, in particular to the remaining eight States listed in Annex II of the Treaty, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay. The Nuclear Weapon States have a particular responsibility to encourage ratification of the CTBT and we call on them to take the initiative in this regard. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, we call upon all States to refrain from nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

Mr Chairperson

Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the **IAEA safeguards system** has been a priority of the NPDI since its creation. We strongly promote universal adherence to key non-proliferation instruments. The NPDI considers the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, in combination with an Additional Protocol, to be the international verification standard. We call upon all States that have not yet concluded an Additional Protocol to do so without delay. The NPDI stands ready to share its experience and best practices, as well as legal and practical assistance, in concert with the IAEA, in the conclusion and implementation of Additional Protocols. Furthermore the NPDI will continue its outreach to call on States, where appropriate, to rescind or amend the **Small Quantities Protocol**, and to ratify the **amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material**.

Furthermore, Mr Chairperson

We underscore the crucial role of **export controls** in implementing the nuclear non-proliferation obligations under paragraph 2 of Article III of the NPT. We urge all States to establish, develop, maintain appropriate effective national export controls for nuclear and related dual-use goods and technology, including as required by United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540. As mentioned in the NPDI working paper for the 2013 NPT PrepCom on this topic, the NPDI members stand ready to share their individual experiences in the field of export controls with other Interested State Parties.

Recognizing the serious threat of **nuclear terrorism**, we reaffirm our commitment to work together to strengthen nuclear security, including by fully implementing relevant international requirements. We welcome the third **Nuclear Security Summit** (NSS) which will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in less than a year. The members of the NPDI fully support the objectives of the NSS on strengthening nuclear security and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism. The NPDI participates in the preparations for the 2014 Summit and is working towards its successful conclusion. We also welcome the International Conference on Nuclear Security to be convened by the IAEA in Vienna from July 1st -5th, 2013.

The NPDI strongly condemns the **nuclear test by the DPRK** on February 12th 2013, which is a serious violation of UNSCRs 1718, 1874 and 2087, and which constitutes a grave challenge to the NPT. While deploring this third nuclear test, which undermines peace and security in the region and beyond, we welcome the unanimous adoption of UNSCR 2094 on March 7th. We strongly urge the DPRK to sincerely heed the strong warning and condemnation repeatedly expressed by the international community and to comply faithfully and fully with all of the obligations included in all relevant UNSCRs, the NPT and its IAEA safeguards agreement. We also strongly urge the DPRK to refrain from further escalatory actions and provocations including nuclear testing and missile launches or the threat of nuclear weapons' use.

In relation to Iran's nuclear program, we deeply regret the lack of progress in resolving the outstanding issues with the IAEA. We urge Iran to seriously engage with the IAEA. We also deeply regret the lack of advancement at the latest meeting with the E3+3 in Almaty. To address the immediate concerns of the international community, we urge Iran to engage with the E3+3 on the proposal tabled in Almaty in February and further elucidated by experts in Istanbul last month in order to reach an agreement on first concrete confidence building steps. We strongly urge Iran to fully comply with its international obligations including IAEA and UNSC resolutions without delay in order to restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program. The NPDI supports the IAEA's essential role in establishing this confidence. The NPDI further supports the E3+3 seeking a comprehensive, negotiated, long-term settlement to the Iranian nuclear issue, while respecting Iran's legitimate rights to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in conformity with the NPT and its obligations under IAEA and UNSC resolutions.

Mr Chairperson,

As an important cooperation and confidence-building measure, The NPDI encourages and supports the establishment of internationally recognized and effectively verifiable nuclear-weapon-free-zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned. We also call for genuine and constructive engagement of all States, especially the Nuclear Weapon States, in support of this objective.

We regret that the **Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction**, which is an essential and integral part of the final outcome of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, could not be held in 2012. We call for the earliest possible convening of a successful conference with the participation of all States of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at. The NPDI supports the facilitator in his efforts to realise this and we call upon the States in the region to engage in a spirit of constructive cooperation that will lead to an inclusive, substantive and goal-oriented conference and follow-on steps, eventually leading to the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

The members of the NPDI participated in the **Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons** that took place in Oslo, Norway on March 4th and 5th 2013. The NPDI remains deeply concerned by the risk for humanity represented by the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used and by the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from their use. The discussions at the Oslo Conference illustrated once more the devastating immediate and long-term humanitarian effects of a nuclear weapon detonation. We welcome the offer of Mexico to convene a follow-up conference on this issue.

We recognize further the significant role that civil society can play in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The NPDI is ready to intensify its engagement with civil society organizations in order to attain our common objectives.

The members of the NPDI are further resolved to empowering members of our societies with the necessary awareness, knowledge and skills to make their own contribution, as national and world citizens, to the realization of the global disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. We, therefore, recognize the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education as an integral part of our joint work. The NPDI welcomes Japan's announcement of launching the "Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons" program and the UAE initiative to support convening workshops for journalists on the subject of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson,

We recall the positive atmosphere of the 2012 NPT PrepCom that took place in Vienna from April 30th to May 10th 2012, as reflected in the Chairman's Summary. The NPDI calls on all State Parties to take part in the deliberations of this PrepCom in that same spirit of cooperation and good faith. We are convinced that a successful result at the NPT PrepComs and the Review Conference in 2015 is within reach if the overall goal of the NPT, a world without nuclear weapons, guides the State Parties that participate in the meetings. It is this goal that brought the NPDI together in The Hague this year, that will bring us together in Hiroshima in 2014 and that will guide us through the Review Process until 2015.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson