

MC1 – Interventie Zero Draft (vrijdagmiddag)

Thank you, Chair

Let me begin by joining other delegations in thanking the Presidency for preparing the Zero Draft outcome document and for circulating it in a timely manner to allow sufficient time for reflection, discussion and negotiation.

In general, my delegation welcomes this first draft, which we consider to be a solid basis for further deliberations. In this regard and with a view to support the Presidency in the next stage of the drafting process, the Netherlands will submit written comments and textual suggestions later today. I would like to highlight four key elements during today's debate.

First of all, the Netherlands strongly supports the elements on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including a call on the nuclear-weapon States to maintain the existing moratorium on nuclear-weapon tests, pending the entry into force of the CTBT. We would like to include a reference to the need to uphold and strengthen the norm against nuclear testing. Furthermore, we would like to underline the importance of the CTBTO and the International Monitoring System for global verification of the nuclear test-ban.

Second, my delegation welcomes the suggestion made in paragraph 68, to immediately commence negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and the call on nuclear weapon States to maintain or declare moratoriums on its production in paragraph 70. With a view on the current and decadelong deadlock in het Conference on Disarmament regarding the commencement of negotiations on an FMCT, the Netherlands would be open to include language in the Final Document which calls for “innovative contributions in all appropriate formal and informal forums to facilitate the launch and early conclusion of such negotiations”.

Third, regarding paragraph 56 concerning New Start, we would like to note that the current text does not reflect the call of several States Parties on the holders of the three

largest nuclear arsenals – namely Russia, the United States and China – to negotiate a follow-up agreement. We would welcome this to be reflected in the next draft.

My fourth and last point concerns paragraph 2. My delegation is aware of the widely diverging views as well as misconceptions concerning the matter of NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements, which makes it all the more important that discussions and the RevCon's outcome document remain firmly grounded in facts. The current text appears to be based on incorrect information regarding NATO's extended deterrence arrangements, which does not entail any sharing of nuclear weapons. Many delegations – including my own – have pointed this out in previous interventions. If anything, my delegation believes that any reference to NATO's extended deterrence arrangements in the outcome document should highlight the fact that it has been a key tool in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and therefore actively contributes to the NPT's non-proliferation objectives.

We request the Presidency to review this matter and we stand ready to provide additional information if needed.

Chair,

Let me thank you and the Presidency again for presenting this Zero Draft outcome document and for guiding us through the negotiation phase. You can count on my delegation's support in concluding this phase successfully and to work towards a consensus outcome document, in two weeks time.