Statement of the Netherlands
delivered by
Mrs. Sachi Claringbould, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament
at
Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty
on
Article X /Cluster 3 specific issues

Geneva, 3 May 2018
Mr. Chairman,

The Netherlands would like to make a few remarks on the issue of Article X NPT. Potential withdrawals from the NPT are grave non-proliferation matters and constitute a threat to international peace and security.

The Netherlands would like to emphasize that a withdrawal from the NPT by a State Party should be given proper weight and attention by the remaining NPT States Parties and by the UN Security Council. This is not to say that we deny States Parties the right to withdraw from the Treaty. We fully recognize that every State Party, in exercising its national sovereignty, has this right. What we do need, however, is clarity about the procedures and consequences if a State Party decides to withdraw from the NPT.

In this regard, more than 20 years after the DPRK decided to withdraw from the NPT, many questions still remain unanswered. These questions relate to issues like the rights and responsibilities of the withdrawing state as well as rights and responsibilities of the remaining States Parties of the NPT and the UN Security Council. Moreover, clarity is needed about the role of relevant international organisations such as the IAEA and the CTBTO in the event that a state party notifies their intention to withdraw, both during the period of notification and after exiting the Treaty.

In order to maintain the integrity and universality of the Treaty, we would support developing an approach by which States Parties are being encouraged to remain in the Treaty and are being discouraged to withdraw. We would like to encourage that the issue be addressed in the recommendations of the 2020 Review Conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.