

Madame President,

I have asked for the floor to deliver a statement on behalf of the Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative but before I do that let me while still having my national hat on assure you Madame President of the support of the Netherlands Delegation for your Presidency. We are looking forward to working closely with you. Furthermore I would like to express my great gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing Hungarian Presidency. I am deeply impressed by the energy, wisdom relentless search for compromise and not in the least by the courage they displayed. We deeply regret that despite all their efforts it was not possible to arrive at a Program of Work.

Madame President,

The following remarks I make on behalf of the 10 States of the Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI): Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

On February 14 the NPDI issued the following statement in reaction to the nuclear test of February 12 by North Korea.

Quote

The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) strongly condemns North Korea's nuclear test on February 12th 2013, which is an extremely serious violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSC) 1718, 1874 and 2087. This test, following the launch of a ballistic missile in December 2012, indicates that North Korea continues to develop nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, contrary to its international obligations and commitments, including those under UNSC resolutions and the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement.

This unacceptable nuclear test seriously undermines the peace and security of North East Asia and the world. It also constitutes a grave challenge to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Further action by the international community is imperative in response to North Korea's provocations.

This test is yet another reminder of the urgency of further strengthening the international framework for the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons, including the entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban-Treaty and the effective implementation of the NPT.

The NPDI calls upon all countries to continue efforts to attain and sustain a world free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, and abstain from carrying out any action contrary to the international efforts to promote peace, mutual trust, friendship and cooperation.

End of quote

Thank you Madame president.