

## **Ten countries discuss practical steps towards a nuclear weapons-free world**

Ten countries met in The Hague today to discuss practical steps to strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. 'We are working to create a world without nuclear weapons', said Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans, who hosted the conference. 'It's crucial to reduce nuclear arsenals and prevent nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists, criminals and dangerous regimes. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative is aimed at finding practical ways to move forward on disarmament and non-proliferation.'

The NPDI involves ten countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. It was established in 2010 on the initiative of Japan and Australia. It urges all countries that have not yet done so to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other international legal instruments that are essential building blocks in creating a nuclear weapons-free world.

The NPDI countries support non-proliferation and disarmament in practical ways, working with the International Atomic Energy Agency to offer technical assistance and share experience and best practices.

The NPDI calls for:

- nuclear weapon states to increase transparency on their nuclear arsenals and reduce the role of these weapons in their military doctrines;
- inclusion of all categories of nuclear weapons in future nuclear disarmament talks, including non-strategic nuclear weapons, which have not so far been part of negotiations;
- all remaining countries that have yet to do so, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and stop nuclear testing – an essential step towards a nuclear weapons-free world;
- negotiations to begin as soon as possible on a treaty that will stop the production of fissile material for weapons.

The NPDI countries strongly condemned the recent nuclear test by North Korea and have called on Iran to comply with its international obligations regarding its nuclear programme.