

(Mr. van den Broek, Netherlands)

... Furthermore, we must ensure that nuclear arms reductions between East and West are not followed by a build-up in other parts of the world. The difference with the proliferation of missiles and chemical weapons, however, is that the dangers of nuclear proliferation were recognized years ago. The non-proliferation Treaty, for which the fourth review conference will be held here in Geneva in the late summer, remains of vital importance for world stability. Strict compliance with non-proliferation standards remains a corner-stone of Netherlands policy. We should endeavour to strengthen these standards further on the basis of a meaningful and thorough assessment of the implementation of the Treaty as a whole. The number of States which are party to the NPT is steadily increasing, and I would call upon those countries which have yet not acceded to it to reconsider their stance.