



Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van het
Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

Permanent Mission of the
Kingdom of The Netherlands
to the United Nations
235 East 45th Street, 16th floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs and has the honour to refer to the latter's note verbale no. ODA/11-2008/A&ADU, dated 15 February 2008.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the United Nations has the honour to submit to the Office for Disarmament Affairs, with reference to GA resolution 62/30, entitled "Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium", the response of the Government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.



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(62/30): Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium

At the 62nd session of the General Assembly the Netherlands voted against General Assembly resolution 62/30, entitled 'Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium'.

The following is a response to operational paragraph 1 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant international organisations on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, and to submit a report on this subject to the General Assembly at its 63rd session.

The Netherlands recognises the need for additional research on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium and appreciates that this issue is being discussed in the forum of the UN. However, the resolution's reference to the "potential" harmful effects of the use of depleted uranium munitions on human health and the environment cannot so far be substantiated by scientific studies conducted by relevant international organisations like the World Health Organisation.

The Dutch armed forces do not use munitions containing depleted uranium. In the context of multinational missions, however, it is not impossible that Dutch service personnel may operate in areas in which munitions containing depleted uranium are being or have been used by allies.

The health and well-being of Dutch soldiers deployed on international missions is under the continuous scrutiny of the Dutch government. Exposure to hazardous materials must be avoided to the greatest possible extent.