

N P D I

What is it?

Nuclear Procrastination and Delay Initiative?

Not Pursuing Disarmament Initiative?

No Particular Direction Initiative?

Needing P5 Defence Indefinitely?

Nice and Polite Do-nothing Initiative?

Now Proposing Deferral Indefinitely?

Really, what is it for? It is not a like-minded group. Its members are roughly half weasels, half NAM states who seem to have joined by accident. A miniature NPT within the NPT, this inexplicable collection of disparate interests manages to produce the same kind of compromised-beyond-all-meaning documents as the NPT as a whole. It then submits them to the NPT, for further dilution to homeopathic concentrations of substance. NPDI working papers typically recommend that states do things they have already undertaken to do, and must rank as some of the most pointless documents ever written in the field of multilateral disarmament (and there is certainly some pretty stiff competition there).

The NPDI supposedly “builds bridges” with the nuclear-weapon states, but actually appears to be a disingenuous attempt to expand the influence of the weasels by developing a weasel-like constituency in the NAM, to protect the interests of the nuclear-weapon states and put the brake on any serious disarmament moves. Why the NAM members of the NPDI cooperate with this, we have no idea. If they are serious about nuclear disarmament, they should leave the NPDI as soon as possible.

Another baffling aspect of the NPDI is the apparent inability of its weasel members to follow the NPDI’s own recommendations. At the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the NPDI in Hiroshima in April 2014, the NPDI urged states “who have not done so to start reducing the role of nuclear weapons in their security strategies and military doctrines”. To date, not one of the seven weasel members of the NPDI (Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey) has reported any step it has taken, or plans to take, to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in its own security strategy or military doctrine.

The NPDI: building bridges ... back to the status quo.