Statement by

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2020 NPT Review Conference

Cluster III.
Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

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Mr. Chairman,

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy is an essential pillar of the NPT and remains an inalienable right of all states party to the Treaty, in accordance with Article IV. As we continue to work towards the upcoming Review Conference, we must reaffirm the importance of cooperation between member states to develop research, production, and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

As interest in nuclear energy continues to expand, we must continue to support exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We should all stand ready to work and support all efforts that promote cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy without discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

Cooperation in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should be pursued in good faith and exclude any measures that hinder such cooperation. Egypt expresses its concern at continued attempts by some state parties to the Treaty to promote such measures and calls upon the removal of any restrictions or limitations on the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials, and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We emphasize that the Treaty encourages the transfer or use of nuclear technology and as such, we regret the inclination by some state parties to propose measures and adopt policies that run contrary to the objectives of the NPT by restricting international cooperation and limiting assistance in this field.

Indeed, such an approach can only undermine the Treaty and erode its credibility. This is further complicated by the fact that some states party to the Treaty enter in new nuclear agreements with states not party to the NPT that have not accepted full scope comprehensive IAEA safeguards. Discussion on their inclusion as full members in plurilateral nuclear groups related to nuclear exports sends the wrong messages and weakens the incentive for these States to join the NPT and reduces the prospect of achieving its universality.

We stress that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including proposals for assurance of supply, needs to fully take into account all technical, legal, political, and economic complexities
surrounding these issues. The right of states party to obtain a full nuclear fuel cycle and expanding their own production capacity in the nuclear fuel cycle should not be compromised.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt recognizes the important role the IAEA plays in assisting state parties to the Treaty, in particular in the use of nuclear science and technology. The IAEA Technical Cooperation Program remains an essential component that plays a crucial role in the process of transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries and enhance their scientific and technological capabilities. Attempts to politicize the work of the Agency, including its technical cooperation program should be prevented.

The statute of the IAEA stipulates the right of member states to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes and to promote socio-economic development through technical cooperation, with due consideration for the needs of developing countries. We stress the importance of nuclear knowledge-sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries to advance and expand their scientific and technological capabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt believes that nuclear security remains the sovereign national responsibility of state parties to the NPT. It is their responsibility to update their respective national legislations, ensure their nuclear material and related technology are appropriately controlled and monitored, and adopt multifaceted measures that safeguard nuclear and radioactive material from any potential misuse.

We emphasize that the IAEA has the central role in the field of nuclear security and that any process to develop multilateral norms and guidelines should be pursued within the framework of the IAEA. There is a detectable growing inclination by some state parties to the NPT that seeks to associate the degree of their cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the standards and measures adopted by states with regards to nuclear security. We believe that this association has no legal grounds and has the potential of being misused as a pretext to deny or restrict the exchange of nuclear equipment, material, and technology. Thank you.