Statement by Turkey

II\textsuperscript{nd} Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference
Cluster III

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\textit{Check against delivery}

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey strongly supports the inalienable right of states to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as stipulated in Article IV of the NPT.

We attach importance to the fact that, the NPT aims to preserve a crucial balance through the two aspects of its overarching objective regarding peaceful uses.

On the one hand, it aims to ensure that the benefits of nuclear energy are available to all states on equitable terms and through international cooperation. While on the other, it strives to make sure that the use of nuclear energy does not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and does not endanger human and environmental health and safety.

This is a most sensitive and important facet of the Treaty, as the use of nuclear technologies continues to grow.

The IAEA’s annual publication on energy and electricity projections show that nuclear power’s global potential remains high in the coming decades. The renewed interest in nuclear energy for power generation underscores the importance of the timely resolution of differences within the international community on peaceful uses of nuclear energy issues.

The steady increase in the growth of non-power nuclear applications and their contribution to Sustainable Development Goals as well as the quality of life around the world adds to the significance of these issues.

As an embarking country, developing its own nuclear power programme, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its applications have priority for Turkey.

We remain committed to contributing to the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions. This is
essential to maintaining the balance between rights and obligations of States Parties under the Treaty and constitutes an integral element of the NPT’s grand bargain.

The relationship between peaceful uses and nuclear security is crucial. We must be mindful not to draw a negative correlation between the two. While security measures should not hamper the use of peaceful applications, it cannot be ignored that physical and other means of security are vital to protect the people we are trying to serve from malicious acts.

Turkey is of the view that, nuclear safety and security are both responsibilities of the state. We also believe that these fundamental elements of a nuclear programme have global ramifications for peaceful nuclear use.

A more appropriate balance is needed between national and international interests and responsibilities. This should include increased focus on the development of and adherence to international standards, as well as greater transparency and accountability.

An essential component of peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the NPT is the commitment to international cooperation.

In this regard, Turkey stresses the key role played by the IAEA by providing technical assistance to states in all aspects of peaceful use. The IAEA, through its system of safeguards, also provides confidence to states by enabling them to cooperate in the peaceful use of nuclear energy without contributing to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Turkey acknowledges that the development of an appropriate infrastructure to support the safe, secure and efficient use of nuclear power, in line with relevant IAEA standards and guidelines, is a matter of central importance, especially for States that are planning for the introduction of nuclear power to their energy mix.

Turkey attaches utmost importance to the Agency’s safety standards and carefully follows Agency recommendations to obtain an advanced level of safety and security in its nuclear power programme. We utilize the Agency’s support services in appropriate phases of our nuclear programme both from regulator and utility aspects. We also draw upon relevant international legal instruments in this field.

In addition to peer review missions, the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) is the most direct and tangible service of the Agency, geared towards introducing and improving peaceful uses worldwide.

Turkey is of the view that the Agency has to be given the necessary financial resources in order to effectively discharge its responsibilities.

Thank you.