Mr Chairman

The United Kingdom would like to align itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union. In a national capacity, I would also like to highlight several key issues relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The UK has long been an advocate for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as we have reiterated in previous Preparatory Committee meetings, and we will continue to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The development of civil nuclear energy must be accomplished without compromising safety, security or non-proliferation, and in accordance with safeguards. In line with the rights expressed in Article IV of the NPT, and on the condition that any countries doing so are in full compliance with their non-proliferation obligations, we recognise the inalienable right of all Parties to research, develop, and utilise civil nuclear energy for their own benefit.

**Civil nuclear new build programme**

In November 2017, the UK Government launched its ambitious industrial strategy, which sets out a long term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK. Furthermore, it details how we will help businesses create better, higher-paying jobs in every part of the UK with investment in the skills, industries and infrastructure of the future.

_Check against delivery_
One of the four Grand Challenges identified in the Industrial Strategy is clean growth. The United Kingdom has put clean growth at the heart of its Industrial Strategy to increase productivity, boost people’s earning power and ensure the UK continues to lead the world in efforts to tackle climate change, including through the decisions taken on new nuclear. Industry has set out proposals via three consortia to develop 18GW of new nuclear power at six sites in the UK. In addition, two reactor designs have now completed the Generic Design Assessment process, and another is in the early stages.

The UK is committed to ensuring that there is a skilled workforce in place that can deliver the new nuclear programme to time and to budget without compromising the effective continuation of current operations and decommissioning.

The Nuclear Skills Strategy Group (NSSG) is an industry-led group, formed in 2015, that brings together government, industry, regulators and the unions to address skills challenges facing the sector. In December 2016 the NSSG published its strategic plan aimed at securing the required supply of suitably qualified and competent personnel for the UK nuclear sector.

**Nuclear safety and security**

The UK proactively participated in the 7th Review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in May 2017. Through the peer review process, the UK’s Country Group commended the UK’s integration of nuclear safety and security, and supply chain management alongside work on talent management and undergraduate/graduate programs as areas of “good performance”. The UK continues to encourage states to become party to the various nuclear safety conventions.

The UK’s security regime for the civil nuclear industry is robust and effective and fully meets international standards. Revised guidance was issued to the industry by the UK’s nuclear regulator in March 2017. The Security Assessment Principles provide the essential foundation for the introduction of outcome focussed regulation for all constituent security disciplines: physical, personnel, transport, and cyber security and information assurance.

*Check against delivery*
The UK civil nuclear sector is now in the process of producing site security plans and transport security statements that are consistent with these revised requirements.

*International Atomic Energy Agency*

No statement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would be complete without mentioning the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the important work that it does with regards to safeguards, and the Technical Cooperation Programme. Indeed, when we look at the NPT Action Plan agreed in 2010, there are a large number of actions that relate directly to the work of the IAEA.

The United Kingdom continues to provide full support to the IAEA. We acknowledge how important it is that the IAEA has certainty of funding and so we pay our Regular Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund contributions in full and on-time. The UK has also made significant extra-budgetary contributions to support the refurbishment of the Seibersdorf laboratories, and in support of the IAEA’s nuclear safety and security programmes which underpin the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We have also made a £4.1M contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. We encourage all states parties to fulfil their financial commitments to the IAEA so that they continue with their important work.

The UK works with the IAEA and other Member States to encourage fair balance and effective governance in the Technical Cooperation Programme, in order that developing and ‘least developed’ countries are best able to benefit from the available funding.

The UK also regularly contributes subject matter expertise and technical assistance to further the development and sustainability of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including through contributing to the drafting of IAEA standards and guidance, and by participating in peer review missions to other Member States.

Mr Chairman,

*Check against delivery*
In conclusion, the UK would like to reaffirm our support to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the work that it does, and to reiterate the importance that peaceful uses of nuclear energy plays in the world.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.