Statement by

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Mr. Chairman,

Although the NPT has served as the legal and normative foundation for limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, efforts to realize its universality and limit their horizontal proliferation have been challenging. Additionally, nuclear weapon States have engaged in vigorous modernization programs of their nuclear arsenals and manufacture of new generations of nuclear weapons.

It has to be admitted that total and irreversible nuclear disarmament, in a transparent and verifiable manner, remains the only guarantee for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. We cannot address nonproliferation without highlighting the immediate connectivity with disarmament. Nuclear non-proliferation, in all its aspects, and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing and should be simultaneously pursued in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

It is of utmost concern to note that, forty-eight years after the entry into force of the Treaty, nuclear non-proliferation has been pursued in an imbalanced and deliberate manner, at the expense of nuclear disarmament. Egypt strongly believes that efforts by the nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals should be achieved in a transparent, irreversible, and internationally verifiable manner, as such steps will highly reduce any likelihood of their potential proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt views with serious concern the cooperation of some NPT States Parties, particularly nuclear weapon States, with States non-party to the NPT in the nuclear field. Rather than exert efforts to encourage universal adherence to the NPT, it is regrettable that some States Parties are engaging in cooperative exchanges in the field of nuclear technology to States that have refused to adhere to the NPT. By doing so, these States Parties not only undermine their NPT obligations, they also weaken the incentive for these States to join the Treaty and thus reduce the prospect of achieving its universality.

The continued operation of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities by States non-party to the NPT clearly defies the purpose and
objective of the Treaty, and further brings into question the commitment of States Parties to achieve its universality.

We emphasize that strict observance to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards and to the NPT, in accordance with Article III, should be a necessary precondition for any cooperation in the nuclear field with States non-party to the Treaty, or for any supply arrangements with these States for the transfer of source or special fissionable material, equipment, or material.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the ceaseless calls over decades to the nuclear weapon States to realize the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons, they continue to exist with astounding numbers. The lack of commitment by nuclear weapon states to fully implement Article VI of the NPT in good faith however, isn't the only deficiency. Nuclear weapons remain deployed in the territories of certain non-nuclear weapon States and nuclear deterrence continues to dominate the security and defense doctrines of certain military alliances. These actions have severely undermined the Treaty itself, its credibility and the integrity of the review cycles.

Any horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapon sharing arrangements constitutes a clear violation of non-proliferation obligations. Such arrangements brings the effectiveness and validity of the Treaty into question. While some States Parties to the NPT label the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons as a priority requirement for their national security, they act with indifference when it comes to nuclear sharing arrangements.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt asserts that pursuing the non-proliferation objectives of the Treaty should not hamper effective cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Egypt refuses any attempts that impose restrictions on the transfer of nuclear equipment, material, and technology to States Parties to the Treaty that have concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA. We believe that the obligation under Article III of the NPT in verifying the peaceful nature of nuclear programs provides enough credible assurances that would enable States Parties to engage in the
Mr. Chairman,

Egypt recognizes that the IAEA safeguards are a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and help create an environment conducive to peaceful nuclear cooperation. We underline that the IAEA is the sole competent authority responsible for verification of the fulfillment of safeguard obligations assumed by States Parties under Article III of the NPT. We stress the importance of achieving the universality of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and urge all States that have not yet done so, to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements as soon as possible.

It is important, nonetheless, to make a clear distinction between the legal obligations stipulated in the NPT and other voluntary, optional confidence building measures undertaken by a State Party to the NPT. Such voluntary undertakings shall not be turned into legal safeguards obligations.

Furthermore, we call on nuclear weapon States to conclude full-scope safeguards agreements with the IAEA in accordance with its statute, for verifying the fulfillment of their obligations assumed under the NPT. We stress the statutory role of IAEA in nuclear disarmament, including through applying safeguards on nuclear materials derived from the dismantling of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt calls upon all States non-party to the NPT to accede immediately and without preconditions to the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States and to place all their nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. By achieving the universality of the NPT, the objectives and principles of the Treaty become strengthened. As universal adherence to any Treaty is a reflection of its efforts towards achieving the universality of the Treaty.

Thank you.