Toward 2020: elaborating a framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation

The development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is central to the implementation of the objectives of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation (NPT), along with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. All states parties to the NPT should be able to benefit from the civil applications of nuclear energy provided that they respect their international obligations and pursue nuclear activities exclusively for peaceful purposes.

The development of nuclear energy can provide a competitive, predictable and sustainable way to meet growing energy needs, while helping states meet their goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and guarantee security of energy supply at affordable costs.

In order to ensure international support for the responsible and sustainable development of nuclear energy, as well as other peaceful nuclear applications, international cooperation in this field should be pursued in a manner consistent with international obligations, in accordance with the highest international standards of nuclear safety, security, non-proliferation and environmental protection.

As we work towards the 2020 NPT Review conference, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Romania, Spain and Turkey deem it is useful to share their experience in this field and consider how to best promote the responsible and sustainable development of civilian nuclear energy programs through enhanced cooperation, based on intergovernmental agreements.

For this purpose, examples of good practices and elements to be included with regards to intergovernmental agreements in the field of civil nuclear cooperation were compiled in a working paper which has been submitted to this Committee under the reference NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.8.
We hope that these proposals can be discussed, in general and against other national practices, during the 2018 Preparatory Committee, serving as a contribution to the Preparatory Committee’s work under the 3rd pillar of the NPT, with the view to consolidating a common understanding toward the 2020 Review Conference.