STATEMENT
by H.E. Ambassador Yurii KLYMENKO,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva

Cluster 3 issues
(May 2, 2018, Geneva)

Mr Chairman,

While aligning with the statement of the European Union delivered earlier, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

The Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons recognizes the inalienable right of the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the NPT. We would like to underline that nothing in the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting this right.

Ukraine underscores the importance of peaceful nuclear technology for sustainable socio-economic development of nations, provided that nuclear activities of states are subject to the full scope of IAEA safeguards.

In this regard, we reiterate our strong support for the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which plays an important role in the development of application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and serves as a powerful tool for exchange of nuclear knowledge and capacity building in member states.

We are of the opinion that for the recent year the TC Programme has made a big step forward in terms of size, comprehensiveness and complexity of enlarging the input of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

The IAEA regional and national technical cooperation projects have significantly contributed to nuclear safety and improving an overall effectiveness of peaceful use of nuclear energy in Ukraine.

Against this backdrop and proceeding from interests of Ukraine as a part of European region, we expect that nuclear safety, nuclear medicine, decommissioning, radioactive waste management and nuclear security will constitute priority thematic areas for the IAEA technical cooperation for 2018 and the nearest future.

Ukraine stands ready to actively cooperate with the Agency on Chornobyl related issues for the TCP project cycle for 2018 – 2019 by further implementing, inter alia, a national project aimed at supporting Chornobyl NPP Units Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management at the NPP site and within the Exclusion Zone.
Since 2001, the IAEA, through the implementation of national and regional technical cooperation projects, has been supporting the Government of Ukraine in this critical for the Chornobyl NPP area.

Within the implementation of the projects from 2001 to 2017, more than 80 missions of expert and technical support were carried out, more than 60 workshops and scientific visits of the Chornobyl NPP specialists were organized to the sites of the facilities where the tasks, critical for the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant, were successfully solved.

Mr Chairman,

Nuclear power will remain an important option to achieve energy security and Sustainable Development Goals in the 21st century. Ukraine supports countries' decisions to develop or further expand civil nuclear power programs. In our view the main prerequisite for the peaceful use of the nuclear energy is the state's commitment to non-proliferation regime and to the highest standards of nuclear safety and security.

In this regard I cannot but mention very useful and significant input into relevant international cooperation by the Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control as well as the Japan Atomic Energy Agency.

As the responsibility for nuclear security rests with individual state, Ukraine wishes to underline that all nuclear facilities of Ukraine are operating in a regular mode. For the past three years additional effective measures were undertaken by the competent authorities of Ukraine to ensure their nuclear security, including reinforced physical protection of 15 power units in operation at 4 sites of the Ukrainian NPPs.

At present, we can confirm the high level of nuclear safety and nuclear security at the Ukrainian NPPs, where nuclear materials are stored and used.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, let me reiterate the importance of responsible development of peaceful nuclear technology, with due regard of safety, security, and non-proliferation conditions, as well as the significance of further IAEA financial and technical assistance to effectively cope with nuclear security challenges.

I thank you.