STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY

HER EXCELLENCY
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CLUSTER III
SECOND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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Mr Chairman,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The Group aligns itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr Chairman,

2. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy will continue to make contributions to African States in meeting their developmental needs and goals. Indeed the NPT reaffirms, the inalienable right of all 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 treaty, as stipulated in its article IV, constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. The Group strongly calls upon all States parties to the Treaty to fully respect this inalienable right and underscores that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting this right.

3. The African Group reaffirms the importance of the right of States parties to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as their right to cooperate among themselves, in particular in the technological field, in contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

Mr Chairman,
4. Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are therefore firmly entrenched in the Pelindaba Treaty. In this context, the entry into force the Pelindaba Treaty, on 15 July 2009, is the realization of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, adopted by the First Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), held in July 1964, in Cairo, Egypt.

5. To ensure that States Parties comply with their undertakings in terms of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses, the Pelindaba Treaty created a mechanism for compliance through the establishment of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, referred to as AFCONE. The main functions of AFCONE include collating reports and the exchange of information as provided, arranging consultations, reviewing the application to peaceful nuclear activities of safeguards by the IAEA, bringing into effect the complaints procedure, encouraging regional and sub-regional programmes for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, and promoting international co-operation with extra-zonal States for the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

Mr Chairman,

6. Nuclear science and technology is an issue of special interest to Africa. In this regard, African States are implementing national programmes on peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the spheres of Human Health, Agriculture and Animal Health, Isotope Hydrology, Industry, Environment, Nuclear Power and Energy Planning. In addition, the Pelindaba Treaty permits the IAEA to verify the processes of dismantling and destruction of nuclear explosive devices. This provision calls for the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA for purposes of verification of peaceful use activities.
7. To complement the aforementioned initiatives, AFCONE, in close collaboration with the IAEA and CTBTO, will continue to support nuclear research and training activities with an emphasis on continually improving nuclear safety, security and safeguards notably to contribute to the integration of the nuclear power within the regional energy mix system in a safe, efficient and secure manner. The AFCONE programme puts a strong emphasis on developing nuclear skills and competence: to achieve these objectives, nuclear research activities will be supported, including with the development partners, through funding for companies, universities, research institutes in all African Member States.

8. **In conclusion Mr Chairman**, the African Group underscores the importance of the continued respect of the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and stresses the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In this regard, through technical assistance and cooperation and maximizing the use of science and technology for socio-economic development, as well as by continuing to ensure commitments of States to the implementation of Safeguards Agreement. The Group stresses the importance of nuclear knowledge sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries, and highlights the potential contribution of nuclear energy in promoting sustainable development and prosperity across the world. The Group calls emphasises that the Technical Cooperation Program of the IAEA, which serves as the main vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, should continue to be formulated and implemented in accordance with its statute.

I Thank You Mr Chairman.