STATEMENT

BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Cluster 3: Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy)

New York, May 6, 2019
Mr. Chairman,

The right of all States Parties to the NPT to use nuclear energy and nuclear technology for peaceful purposes is one of the pillars of the Treaty. It serves as the guarantor of international cooperation in this area ensuring that the States Parties have access to the benefits of peaceful nuclear energy.

Russia has always attributed utmost importance to the issues of international interaction in peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Pursuant to the Article IV of the NPT, we conduct wide cooperation with the States Parties to the Treaty in the implementation of their rights. Russian nuclear developments attracts deserved attention in various countries of the world. Currently, Russia is constructing 36 nuclear power units in 12 countries, playing a leading role in the global nuclear market.

Our international cooperation with foreign partners covers almost all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, including the operation of nuclear power plants, supply of nuclear fuel, treatment of irradiated fuel, decommissioning, and includes a wide range of competencies in each of the areas of nuclear energy development. All of the latest Russian power units with light-water reactors are equipped exclusively in the Generation III+ modification, which meets the modern safety requirements, including the presence of active and passive safety systems. Moreover, the technologies exported abroad have references in Russia. Operating Generation III+ VVER-1200 units at the Novovoronezh NPP and the Leningrad NPP are vivid examples. Such reactors are being built in Bangladesh, Belarus, Turkey and are planned to be built in Hungary, Egypt, Uzbekistan and other countries.

The commissioning of Academik Lomonosov, the world's first floating NPP, earlier this year has become one of the most important among the latest "nuclear premieres". This is a unique nuclear power facility, created for the first time in the history of nuclear energy, which can be moved across water spaces. There is growing interest in cooperation in the construction and operation of such transportable NPPs. Russia is ready for such interaction.
Mr. Chairman,

Russia continues to develop new-generation technologies of closed fuel cycle and fast-neutron reactors. We believe that development of such technologies will make it possible to satisfy the needs for nuclear fuel in the long term.

We note the growing interest in construction of research reactors and establishment of multifunctional Nuclear Research and Technology Centers on their basis. Russia makes significant efforts to provide technical support to the countries that seek to build and develop such potential. Relevant work with our partners in Bolivia and Zambia has entered an active phase. Similar projects are being prepared in other countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. The experience gained in the construction and operation of such centres will lay the foundation for the development of various aspects of the infrastructure required for a nuclear power programme. We also keep doors open for those countries that are ready to conduct joint research at unique Russian facilities, including at the International Research Center based on the MBIR reactor currently under construction (multifunctional fast-neutron research reactor), as well as the research reactor PIK near Saint Petersburg, that will be commissioned in early 2019.

Mr. Chairman,

Being a reliable partner, Russia has always fulfilled and will continue to fulfill its obligations under bilateral and multilateral agreements and projects, regardless of the political situation.

At the same time, we continue to assist the countries embarking on the development of peaceful nuclear energy in creating the necessary infrastructure for safe implementation of national nuclear energy programs, including by developing the regulatory framework and the establishing of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management systems. We assist in personnel training, in particular in countries where NPPs are being constructed with the use of Russian technologies. Together with the IAEA, within the framework of the Technical Cooperation program, we are expanding expert and methodological assistance to these States in
creating national nuclear infrastructure. In cooperation with the Agency, we continue to organize joint nuclear energy management schools, which are seen as a promising tool for training of young and advanced training of experienced specialists.

We believe the extensive development of nuclear medicine, including, in particular, production of equipment for diagnostics, treatment and manufacturing of radiopharmaceuticals in Russia, as well as the supply of isotope products to be yet another promising area for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring an adequate level of nuclear safety worldwide seems to be an indispensable component of the exploration and development of nuclear energy. Russia supports the universalization of all major international legal instruments in the field of nuclear and physical security. At the same time, we emphasize that the main responsibility for ensuring nuclear safety on State’s territories lies within the States themselves and it is at their discretion to determine optimal parameters for their respective national systems and mechanisms.

Cooperation in the field of nuclear energy also implies close attention to the issues of civil liability for nuclear damage. We believe that the 1963 Vienna Convention is still among the most promising and effective international legal instruments in this area.

While recognizing the role of nuclear safety and security, as well as the importance of civil liability issues in the context of international cooperation on peaceful atom, we believe it necessary to recall that these issues are not directly related to the NPT and are not regulated by the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we would like to specifically focus on the IAEA activities aimed at promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Russia strongly supports these efforts, both materially and politically. We note the potential and relevance of the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors
and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) implemented under the auspices of the Agency on the initiative of Russia and with its active assistance. This project has made a significant contribution to the establishment of a systematic approach to solving problems of nuclear fuel cycle development and has become an efficient mechanism for the planning and analysis of nuclear power systems. That is a significant contribution to the implementation by the States Parties to the NPT of their rights under Article IV.

Today, the understanding is taking root that nuclear power is an effective tool for sustainable development and energy security with minimum carbon load on the environment. IAEA forecasts suggest an increase in the use of nuclear energy in the world. Russia intends to continue its cooperation with States Parties to the NPT in order to create a modern and balanced system of cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear energy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.