Chairperson,

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on Cluster III issues.

2. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and which also recognizes the inalienable right of all States Parties to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as enshrined under Article IV of the Treaty. Malaysia wishes to emphasise that all State Parties should be given access to nuclear technology and energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. At the same time, all States must adhere to the fundamental principles related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. States must exercise full transparency in their nuclear programmes, subject those programmes to the full scope of the IAEA safeguards, adhere to the provisions of the NPT, and gain the confidence and trust of the international community over the peaceful nature of their nuclear programmes.

Chairperson,

3. Malaysia expresses its full confidence in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the ability of the Agency in discharging its duties and responsibilities in an impartial, effective and professional manner. As a State Party to the NPT and a Member State of the IAEA, Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and the centrality of the IAEA in the nuclear safeguards and verification regime.
4. The IAEA also plays a pivotal role in promoting global peace, health and prosperity through the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The increase in number of IAEA activities in the areas of nuclear science and technology, and nuclear energy, paves the way towards meeting Member States' development challenges in achieving the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thus, the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is an important avenue towards achieving the objectives of Article IV of the NPT.

5. In this regard, Malaysia fully supports the need for sufficient, assured and predictable funding in order to effectively implement the various activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is imperative that all IAEA Member States honour their due financial obligations to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, to ensure that the Agency has the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate and meet the needs of Member States.

Chairperson,

6. Research and development plays a critical role in realising the long-term goals of nuclear science and technology, for the collective benefit of Member States and the IAEA. Malaysia is honoured by the Agency's recognition of our expertise in the research and development field, and pleased to be the IAEA Collaborating Centre (ICC) in the field of non-destructive testing and radiation processing. We look forward to be designated as the ICC for the 'Plant Mutation Breeding Using Chronic Gamma Irradiation', which will enable our researchers to share expertise and best practices in plant mutation breeding, using chronic gamma irradiation techniques among Member States, thus further promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in line with the NPT.

7. Malaysia commends the successful convening of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology in November 2018, which served as a useful platform to promote the contributions and benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. In line with the IAEA's theme, "Atoms for Peace and Development", the Conference was an attestation of Member States' commitments towards the obligations under Articles I, II, III and IV of the NPT.

8. Malaysia looks forward to the convening of the third International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts, in February 2020. We strongly believe that nuclear security must be addressed in the broader context of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, in accordance with the provisions under the NPT. The convening of this conference will coincide with the 2020 NPT Review Conference, which also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty.

Chairperson,

9. Malaysia recognizes the indispensable role of the IAEA in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons through independent verification of States' compliance with nuclear non-proliferation undertakings. As party to the Treaty, Malaysia has fulfilled its obligations with the conclusion of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) in 1972, which we continue to fully adhere. Malaysia maintains the State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials (SSAC) to ensure that nuclear materials remain in peaceful use and not diverted for non-
peaceful uses. Malaysia has rescinded its Small Quantities Protocol last year as a testament of our commitment towards compliance with IAEA safeguards standards. The IAEA has successfully concluded the Safeguards Advisory Service Mission (ISSAS) to Malaysia recently. Malaysia will remain committed in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and will continue to ensure the use of atomic energy and nuclear related activities within our territory is strictly for peaceful purposes.

10. To further promote a harmonized approach in developing regional capability through capacity building activities in nuclear non-proliferation efforts, the Government of Malaysia has consented to signing a Practical Arrangement between the IAEA and ASEAN on Cooperation in the areas of Nuclear Science and Technology and Applications, Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards. Malaysia believes that the regional Practical Arrangement fosters collective recognition of IAEA’s central role in nuclear non-proliferation in the region.

Thank you.