Mr Chairman,

The United Kingdom associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In a national capacity, I would also like to highlight several key issues relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for sustainable development.

The UK has always been a strong supporter of efforts related to the cooperation and further development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The NPT is vitally important to these efforts as it provides the framework and confidence for the safe and secure use of nuclear power and technologies. This framework, supported by the unique and invaluable work of the IAEA, is helping States to improve socio-economic development globally and contribute to achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in areas such as human health, food and agriculture, water and the environment, industrial applications and radiation technology; safety and security; and energy planning and nuclear power.

The IAEA’s Technical Cooperation Programme and Fund provides an effective vehicle for the safe and secure transfer of nuclear technology and capacity building to support IAEA Member State requests for assistance in a multitude of areas, and our contributions (3.1 million pounds in 2018 to TC, and over £800,000 to the Peaceful Uses Initiative’s ReNuAL, ReNuAL+, and the Linear Accelerator bunker) demonstrates the importance that the UK attaches to the work done by the Agency. The UK views the work of the IAEA as a practical and successful demonstration of the NPT in action.

The UK works closely with the IAEA on the research and development of stable isotopic techniques in order to meet some of the most significant challenges we face today. UK scientists, through our renowned research institutes and national laboratories, continue to
develop innovative ways of harnessing the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies to alleviate the socio-economic issues of low and middle-income countries. One example is in UK Nutrition research where the use of stable isotopic techniques and deuterium allows for improved understanding of energy expenditure and body composition which enables tailored support to help against malnutrition.

At the beginning of this year, we launched an initiative to better coordinate the UK's contribution for non-power nuclear applications. We will use this to identify new opportunities, including by building and strengthening links between relevant departments and arm's length bodies with Official Development Assistance budgets. We expect this to be a significant asset to the UK's approach to this area, delivering real benefits for our partners around the world.

Mr Chairman, in closing, I would like to reiterate the strong commitment to ensuring the safe sharing of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We will continue to support further development to the benefit of all. We look forward to the 2020 NPT Review Conference as an opportunity to draw global attention to the breadth of work being done by international organisations on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to highlight the UK support to those efforts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind attendees of the UK side event happening on Thursday 9 May at 1315. We will present our Nuclear Sector Deal and explain the role of it within the UK Government's wider Industrial Strategy, including how the Deal will help the sector develop, focusing on its main objectives of cost reduction, innovation and diversity.