Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, please allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of Main Committee III. We assure you of our full support and cooperation in our efforts to arrive at a consensus on the specific issues under this Committee.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

As contained in Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Philippines reaffirms the inalienable right of States Parties to the development, research, production and use of nuclear energy without discrimination.

At the heart of the implementation of Article IV is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which is mandated to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

Over the years, the Philippines and other Member States have benefitted from close partnership and cooperation with the Agency through national and regional projects that apply nuclear and isotopic techniques geared towards improving agricultural productivity, enhancing industry competitiveness, securing a safe and clean environment through water resource management and marine pollution control, providing quality healthcare including in the fight against cancer, and ensuring nuclear safety and security.

For the past two years alone, the IAEA has assisted the Philippines on six projects that are focused on the need to enhance national capability for radiological preparedness and response and planning and infrastructure development for radioactive waste management.
The programme also included industrial applications of radioisotope techniques, enhancing safety of gamma radiation facility, application of isotope hydrology techniques for water resource conservation and management, as well as increasing capability for extraction of uranium and useful commodities from phosphoric acid.

There are nine more proposed projects with the Agency in the pipeline for the next two years. These projects reflect the Philippines’ continued efforts towards increasing further the potential contribution of nuclear science and technology in key areas of national socio-economic development, including research reactor technologies, health, sterile insect techniques, radiopharmacy applications, harmful algal blooms and assessing the feasibility of developing a nuclear power programme.

The Philippines is also a regular recipient of fellowships, scientific visits, consultancy grants, expert missions, training course/workshop grants, grants for participation in international conferences/symposia/workshops, grants to participate in research coordination and scientific/technical committee meetings, and grants for research contracts.

There is no question on what the Agency could do in tandem with Member States. It is for this reason that the Philippines will continue to call on strengthening the IAEA’s technical cooperation programme in this Review Conference.

The Philippines acknowledges the support being provided by the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) in providing extra-budgetary resources that allow the Agency to implement additional projects for Member States in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. The Philippines believes that the PUI enhances the Agency’s ability to fulfill its statutory responsibilities, and to respond to Member States’ needs and realize their development goals.

In particular, the Philippines acknowledges the support provided by the PUI in projects such as the IAEA’s Water Availability Enhancement Initiative (iWAVE) project.

We encourage Member States in a position to do so to contribute to this important initiative.

While we speak of rights, we must also emphasize responsibilities. We call on States Parties to strictly comply with their obligations on non-proliferation and to work for the continued strengthening of the IAEA’s safeguards and verification regime.
The Philippines strongly supports the global nuclear safety regime, through the efficient and effective implementation of international legal instruments, the development of safety standards, enhancement of national safety infrastructure, coordination of international emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, and the promotion of a nuclear safety culture.

The Philippine commitment to strengthen nuclear security stems from the recognition that nuclear security, along with nuclear safety, is integral to the continued development and enjoyment of the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A National Nuclear Security Support Centre is being established in my country, with the assistance of the IAEA in support of the National Nuclear Security Plan.

Finally, the Philippines lends its support to multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle with the IAEA in the leading role. As we have time and again stated, States stand to benefit the most under a multilateral framework as this will provide options for the assurance of supply and services for nuclear facilities while at the same time serving as an important tool for strengthening the non-proliferation regime.

Thank you.