My delegation fully supports the statement made by the representative of the European Union. In addition, I should like to highlight a number of key issues relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in a national capacity.

The UK recognises the inalienable right of all Parties to research, develop, and utilise civil nuclear energy for their own benefit, in line with the rights expressed in Article IV of the NPT and on the condition that they are in full compliance with non-proliferation obligations. This is one of the fundamental aspects of the NPT that all States Parties have agreed to, and access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is part of the ‘grand bargain’ inherent in the NPT. We are proud of our record of successful operation of nuclear facilities since the mid-1950s, and of being a partner of choice on nuclear technology and skills to those Parties wishing to develop civil nuclear power in a safe and secure manner. Cooperation at the scientific, technical, policy, and operational levels will become even more to ensure we continue to learn from each other and sustain capacity in nuclear knowledge management.

The United Kingdom, like many States, continues to recognise the potential of civil nuclear energy to help meet the growing global need for low-carbon energy in order to meet climate change goals through reduced carbon emissions. Security of supply is also a key concern for many States and civil nuclear energy can play a very important role alongside other forms of energy generation to ensure a secure, reliable and consistent energy supply. We are committed to promoting the safe expansion of civil nuclear energy for those States who choose to use it. As many of you will be aware, the UK has a programme of new build civil nuclear power stations which will help us meet the aim of a secure, low-carbon energy mix.

The UK is a strong supporter of the IAEA and its Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme. We ensure that we pay our financial contribution on time and in full on an annual basis and encourage others to do likewise. We recognise the very

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important work that the Programme does, not least in the contribution it makes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The TC Programme provides the necessary support to allow countries to use nuclear techniques in a safe and effective way; and the impact that the Programme has had should not be underestimated. There are numerous examples which could be used to demonstrate this, especially in the fields of medical diagnosis & treatment and crop protection. We have also recently contributed funds towards the modernisation of the Agency’s Seibersdorf laboratories through the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI).

The UK is very encouraged by the work done by the Agency to move to a results-based management approach. We believe that the TC Programme needs to support the right projects – the means by which these are chosen should be clear, the projects should be realistic and the benefits achievable. The projects should be run effectively and carefully monitored to ensure that the overall project aim provides a focus throughout the lifetime of the project. It is also important that, wherever possible, the benefits are ongoing so that the project continues to deliver and makes a real difference, rather than achieving short-term changes which cannot be sustained. Each project should be comprehensively evaluated so that lessons can be learnt and applied to future projects. Continuous, iterative, improvements will ensure that the TC Programme remains relevant and well supported.

Nuclear technology will increasingly play a role in securing a better quality and duration of life for more people. The NPT has a vital role to play in ensuring that the world can take advantage of what nuclear technologies have to offer in a safe, secure, and sustainable way. The agreement of an Action Plan, reached at the 2010 RevCon, was a remarkable milestone and gave a clear framework of deliverables in order to progress the fundamental objectives of the NPT. The actions relating to peaceful uses are still relevant today, despite being agreed five years ago.

The UK has made several fundamental changes to its nuclear regulatory regime since the last Review Conference that will be of interest to colleagues in the room. We recognise how important an independent and robust regime is and are committed to creating the highest standards of nuclear regulation. To that end, we have embarked on steps to enhance the UK’s civil nuclear regulatory framework, to

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ensure it remains world class and has the flexibility to be able to address future challenges. The Energy Act, which gained Royal Assent in December 2013, included provisions to establish the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR, created in 2011) as a statutory, independent regulator. The ONR brings together the functions of civil nuclear safety, security, safeguards implementation, radioactive materials transport, and conventional health & safety on civil nuclear sites. The ONR began operating as a statutory body on 1 April 2014.

Since the 2010 Review Conference, there has also been progress on multinational approaches (MNA) to the nuclear fuel cycle – the steps under Action 58. The UK fully supports moves to create a menu of viable and credible assurances of fuel supply, which would enable a new nuclear state to avoid the need to develop expensive and complex indigenous enrichment technologies. The UK views all MNA proposals as complementary, and hopes that states are able to select proposals which contribute best to their energy mix, noting that they pose no burden or impact on those States who do not wish to pursue nuclear energy or use them.

The United Kingdom’s Nuclear Fuel Assurance proposal – a response to the IAEA’s request for Multilateral Nuclear Approaches (MNAs), was adopted at the IAEA Board of Governors in March 2011.

The UK is a strong supporter of co-ordinated international effort in seeking the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security. We are a Contracting Party to relevant international nuclear safety instruments such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safe Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste; in addition to the Paris Convention on nuclear third party liability and the Brussels Supplementary Convention since the 1960s. The UK has also ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment. We encourage other Parties to sign and ratify all instruments relevant to safety and security as soon as possible.

As a State that is actively pursuing nuclear energy as part of its overall energy strategy, we warmly invite delegates to an event, to be held in Room CR-D on Monday 11 May from 1315 to 1430. We will present the strategy and vision that the UK has for our civil nuclear industry and talk about the breadth of activities that we

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are undertaking as we develop our new build programme. This includes the role of Government and the Regulator, the key part that an effective supply chain has to play, the importance of developing the right skills for the workforce, and the resultant decommissioning and waste management which needs to take place for any civil nuclear programme to be effective and implemented in the right way. We will also cover the contribution which academia and R&D has to make. All are welcome.

We hope that States Parties at this RevCon will agree a set of principles to frame any potential withdrawal from the NPT under Article X. While we recognise the right of any State to withdraw from the Treaty in extreme circumstances, we believe all states have a shared interest in ensuring that our collective right to global security is not undermined. The UK has funded a series of events hosted by the International Network of Emerging Nuclear Specialists to discuss this issue, with the hope of building consensus on how to take this forward. We look forward to a genuine debate on this issue and hope we will be able to agree clearly and robust language.

We continue to believe that strengthening the Review Process for the Treaty, as set out in 1995, is an important element of our collective work, and we look forward to further discussion on this issue during this RevCon.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, the UK notes that the role of peaceful uses of nuclear energy can only become more important. The world will continue to need ever increasing amounts of energy, and this needs to be produced and delivered in a safe, reliable and sustainable way. This energy needs to be cost-effective and low carbon.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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