Statement by the Czech Republic

Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference

Cluster II

New York, 29 April – 10 May 2019
Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, I would like to add the following remarks in the national capacity.

The Czech Republic commends mutually beneficial and reinforcing structure of the UN bodies and numerous export control regimes and initiatives in the area of non-proliferation. However, so far not all states abide completely by the relevant UNSC and IAEA resolutions nor do they fully comply with the NPT commitments.

The Czech Republic recognises the undisputable right of NPT State Parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. At the same time, this right must be exercised in full conformity with the non-proliferation obligations. Any case of non-compliance should be treated according to established international norms and the respective States should be held responsible and accountable for their violations. We strongly believe that all cases of non-compliance must be reported, as it is required by the IAEA Statute, to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. We are convinced that the international community has to seize opportunity and take up courage to rectify those few cases still undermining the global non-proliferation system and international security.

The Czech Republic supports the Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as long as Iran continues to fully implement its nuclear related commitments. JCPOA together with the UNSC resolution 2231 represents a well-suited instrument of effective multilateral diplomacy and a unique asset in the area of non-proliferation. We call on all parties to use this rare opportunity and to implement all parts of the JCPOA fully and effectively. We call on the DPRK to comply with its obligations under multiple UNSC resolutions and to maintain suspension of testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. We urge DPRK to take concrete steps to progress on the path towards a credible, complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation, and we urge Syria to cooperate with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues in compliance with its Safeguards Agreement, and to conclude urgently the Additional Protocol.

In that context, we would like to emphasize a unique nature and irreplaceable role of the IAEA. Its verification activities in the area of safeguards directly contribute to deepening of international confidence and foster credibility of the NPT regime. The Czech Republic remains fully committed to strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system by actively participating in the IAEA Member States Support Programme since 2002, namely through organizing trainings for Agency’s safeguards inspectors, developing and testing of new IAEA containment and surveillance equipment and offering high quality analytical services in the field of nuclear materials. We also provide our national nuclear facilities for testing of new safeguards verification methods.

The Czech Republic actively supports effective export control regimes in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article II of the NPT, and in compliance with UNSC Resolutions 1540 and 2325. We are strongly convinced that the export control regimes would benefit from the participation of all EU Member States and we urge participating states to primarily concentrate their efforts on the main purpose of the existence of respective control regimes.

We believe that promoting responsibility of all States for securing nuclear and radioactive materials on their territory and preventing non-state actors from acquiring these materials
remains the utmost priority. We therefore stand convinced that the nuclear security is an indispensable element complementing peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear applications.

Thank you for your attention.