STATEMENT
by the delegation of Ukraine at the Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (cluster 2)

Mr Chairman,

Ukraine has always been actively engaged in the global process of non-proliferation and disarmament, making historic contribution to this endeavour. We have consistently supported effective multilateral efforts aimed at preventing and combating proliferation of weapons and materials of mass destruction.

We highly value the important role which the IAEA plays in coordinating international efforts in securing nuclear non-proliferation regime and facilitating the peaceful use of nuclear energy worldwide.

We recognize the considerable progress in the overall safeguards implementation approach which has undergone the way from a system focused on verifying declared nuclear material and drawing relevant safeguards conclusions to the system that assesses the consistency of all information regarding a state's nuclear program, including research and development in this sphere, to plan, conduct, and evaluate verification activities and to draw safeguards conclusions for the state as a whole.

We fully support the IAEA efforts in this regard.

As the country that fully enjoys the benefits of State Level Approach, Ukraine notes that the initial aim of the safeguards implementation reform was to optimize the safeguards approaches in order to achieve better effectiveness and efficiency. The mechanistic and criteria-driven manner is no longer used, instead of it we have individual approach focused on addressing specific technical objectives.

At the same time, we recognize the fact that the implementation of safeguards in the context of State Level Concept does not entail the introduction of any additional rights or obligations on the part of either States or the IAEA. It is clear that the updated State Level Concepts do not introduce any new safeguards measures beyond those set out in the State’s safeguards agreement and the AP.

The Agency remains the one and only authority to draw relevant conclusions, basing on the collected and processed information from a wide range of sources. As we note that the quantity of the evaluated information continues to grow, we applaud the IAEA for drawing its conclusions judging only from technically credible evaluation data.

Against this backdrop, Ukraine recognizes irrefutable authority and independent role of the Agency in applying safeguards and drawing relevant conclusions in accordance with its Statute, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and Agency bilateral and multilateral safeguards agreements.
Ukraine notes that nothing should be done to undermine the authority of the Agency in this regard.

The credibility of the IAEA’s conclusions does not cause any doubts.

Bearing in mind that current approaches are an essential part of international confidence-building efforts, Ukraine finds it vital to continue further improvement and optimization of safeguards regime in order to effectively respond to growing verification requirements of States in this regard.

Mr Chairman,

Basing on the results of the productive cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the Agency, the IAEA continues to confirm by its “broader conclusion” that all nuclear material in Ukraine has remained in peaceful activities.

This fact clearly proves that despite ongoing Russian armed aggression against Ukraine, its temporary occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, my country remains fully committed to its obligations under the NPT in general and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in particular.

We support the IAEA’s stable approach, which has reliably proved that the framework of the Agency will never be used for impudent attempts to recognize any alteration of the status of Crimea.

Mr. Chairman,

Recognizing the serious threat of nuclear terrorism, we reaffirm our commitment to work together with the international community to strengthen nuclear security.

We believe that the lessons learned and knowledge accumulated by the IAEA in the field of nuclear security creates a unique advisory platform applicable to all States. Ukraine recognizes the Agency’s central role in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally, in particular through providing assistance to States on request and in leading the coordination of international activities in nuclear security, including information exchange.

Ukrainian nuclear security system is developed based on the overall objective of a nuclear security regime.

The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and the related threats compelled us to considerably modify the nuclear security system in the country. Before the act of aggression by the Russian armed forces in February 2014, the concept of the physical protection of nuclear facilities and radioactive material in Ukraine was based on a peaceful paradigm.

Since then, Ukraine significantly improved and strengthened the national regime of nuclear security, duly reflecting upon the facts of malicious intervention.

Against this backdrop, Ukraine is ready to share with all States its unique experience of enhancing the national system of nuclear security under the circumstances of the ongoing armed conflict.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman