Mr Chair,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union under this cluster. Our general priorities are also reflected in the comprehensive working papers prepared by the European Union and the Vienna Group of Ten. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Mr Chair,

All Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty are granted an inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful uses. This right is to be exercised without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III of the NPT. The IAEA makes an essential contribution in advancing article IV of the treaty, including through the Peaceful Uses Initiative and through its Technical Cooperation Programme.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy can play a role in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. This was also underlined in the declaration adopted at last year’s ministerial conference on nuclear science and technology in Vienna. In line with our Government’s priorities, Sweden has in 2019 pledged extrabudgetary funding to the IAEA in the fields of ocean acidification, marine plastics and water resource management in West Africa.

Mr Chair,

Sweden emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and the development of common approaches for nuclear safety. At the 7th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Sweden reaffirmed its commitment and fulfillment of obligations under the Convention. This includes adoption of the principles and objectives of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety as cornerstones of nuclear safety. We look forward to further work, efforts and discussions with the aim of enhancing Nuclear Safety worldwide.

Mr Chair,
Sweden strongly believes that regular peer review mechanisms contribute to further strengthening nuclear safety and security, as well as building confidence in the salience of national regular functions. We encourage the sharing of best practices and results from peer review missions. Sweden recently initiated the process aiming at inviting the next IRRS mission. Our ambition is that it will be conducted in 2022, at the latest. Sweden is of the opinion that transparency and reciprocal learning are important tools in order to ensure a continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security. This is also why we have made reports from earlier peer review missions in Sweden accessible on the website of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority.

It is important not to perceive nuclear safety and security as obstacles to the development and use of peaceful nuclear energy. The highest standards of nuclear safety and security should be a prerequisite for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A strong commitment to these standards is the best way to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and international cooperation. Sweden has a long-standing cooperation with various countries as regards safety and security. Currently we have cooperation activities with Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, the Russian federation and Moldova.

The entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection on Nuclear Material is a welcome development. Sweden looks forward to its universalization and the 2021 review conference. We urge all states that have not already done so, to become party to the amended Convention and to ratify and implement the Amendment as soon as possible. Its entry into force will create additional momentum for future IAEA actions in this area including the preparation for the first Conference of State Parties.

I thank you Mr Chair.