



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.australia-unsct.gov.au

TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

8 AUGUST 2022

Main Committee III Statement

We congratulate you on your election as Chair of Main Committee III.

For over 50 years, the NPT has underpinned global cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It has helped prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons while enabling the use and transfer of nuclear science and technology, contributing to global security and economic development.

We have seen growing recognition of the essential role nuclear applications play including in human health and nutrition, food and agriculture, water resource management and environmental protection. In 2021, the IAEA provided technical cooperation assistance to 146 countries and territories, demonstrating the global benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

There has also been solid progress on nuclear and radiation safety, including emergency preparedness and response, and sustained focus on nuclear security. And many States, including Australia, have made important progress on the long-term management of radioactive waste.

Chair,

Australia acknowledges the right of all State parties to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the NPT. States may choose individually not to exercise all their rights, or to exercise those rights collectively.

In accordance with Article IV.2, we support international cooperation to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Science and technology, including nuclear technology, are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We thus recognise the particular importance of peaceful nuclear energy to developing countries and encourage relevant IAEA programs to focus on those needs.

Over sixty years ago, Australia was one of eight countries that envisaged the formation of the IAEA to allow for the peaceful uses of the atom while safeguarding against nuclear proliferation. Australia remains a staunch supporter of the work of the IAEA and its Technical Cooperation Programme. Australia will continue to contribute to this Programme by paying our target share in full and on time, and through direct contributions to development-orientated projects through the Regional Cooperative Agreement. We urge all states to ensure the Agency has the resources it needs, consistent with Actions 52-55 of the Action Plan.

Australia sees controls on exports of nuclear material, equipment and technology as essential to enabling international cooperation on the peaceful uses, while ensuring non-proliferation.

Chair,

As endorsed in Action 57 of the 2010 Action Plan, nuclear safety and security are of the highest priority for all States, and at all stages of the fuel cycle.

It is essential that nuclear facilities be operated and managed safely and securely under all conditions. Australia commends IAEA efforts to assist in this regard, including in defining the ‘Seven Indispensable Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security’. We remain deeply concerned by the nuclear safety and security implications of Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine and urge Russia to withdraw from Ukrainian territory and allow Ukrainian authorities to re-establish control over all nuclear sites in Ukraine.

Australia urges all States to take advantage of the guidance offered by the IAEA and its peer review services. Australia routinely applies this guidance, including in ANSTO’s periodic safety and security review of the OPAL reactor in 2021.

Australia underscores the importance of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste management as a key instrument in establishing fundamental safety principles in radioactive waste management.

We underscore the importance of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), and urge all countries with nuclear power programmes, to report regularly and fully.

Australia supports the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, as amended. We were pleased to participate in the first Review Conference of the A/CPPNM and commend the chairs for their excellent work to steer the conference toward a successful outcome.

We also applaud the IAEA’s work on nuclear security and the continued work of the Nuclear Security Contact Group.

Chair

Australia continues to play its part as a major and responsible uranium supplier. Through our network of 25 nuclear cooperation agreements covering 43 States, we work to ensure the widest application of IAEA safeguards, including the

Additional Protocol, and the highest standards of safety and security.

Australia is a leader in the use of LEU fuel and targets for medical isotope production. We have demonstrated that LEU technology is a viable pathway for the production of molybdenum-99.

Australia strongly supports, and commends, the working papers submitted by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative and the Vienna Group of Ten in their treatment of Main Committee III issues. We trust these papers will serve to facilitate discussion and provide direction for our work over the coming review cycle.

Our ability to effectively implement the Treaty is a product not just of the actions of states parties and the constructive attitude with which we approach our interactions. It is also a product of the review process itself. Almost 50 States Parties have clearly called for measures to strengthen this process. As set out in the NPDI working paper on this subject (WP.53), a key outcome of this Review Conference should be the establishment of a dedicated working group on further strengthening the Treaty's review process, open to participation by all States parties.

Thank you.