

**Intervention expressing general views on the MC III Report  
16 August 2022**

Chair,

Thank you and your team for your work on the report, and your efforts to reach a consensus text. Ireland believes that it serves as a good basis for our discussions. We would have a number general comments, and some specific text recommendations.

In terms of general comments, we welcome the draft's focus on nuclear science and technology's importance in achieving socio-economic development, and the SDGs, the IAEA's essential work across many key areas, and the references to the need for gender parity and support for the Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship Programme.

However, we feel that greater reference to the role of nuclear safety is essential, noting that nuclear security has been included under MC2. Here we would seek the inclusion of language from paragraphs 58, 59 and 60 of the 2010 Action Plan referencing IAEA safety standards and security guidance, cooperation on safety matters, development of national safety culture and expertise, an independent regulatory body, and IAEA capacity building programmes in this area, as well as safety as it applies to radiological protection and spent fuel and waste management. We could also look at language from paragraphs 50 and 51 as they apply to safety of nuclear power.

On specific aspects of the text:

In paragraph 3, we would seek deletion of the phrase “and without unnecessary preconditions”, which we would find ill-defined and open to confusion.

We would also seek the deletion of the final sentence of paragraph 7, “The Conference emphasizes the importance of reconciling the inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes with the imperatives of nuclear safety and security” which appears to suggest that there is a conflict between peaceful uses of nuclear energy and appropriate and effective nuclear safety and nuclear security, in contradiction to what is stated in the next paragraph.

Regarding paragraph 8, while we recognise this as language from 2010, we feel it would be better if it read “The Conference reaffirms that the use of nuclear energy must be accompanied by commitments to and on-going and full

implementation of safeguards obligations,” which better reflects the commitments of states under the Treaty.

In Paragraph 10, we would wish to see inclusion of the phrase “through its provision of safety standards and security guidance, and coordinating international cooperation in this regard.

Regarding Paragraph 11, we find the highlighting of one specific technology as unusual, and believe the paragraph would benefit from being generalised slightly as follows: The Conference stresses the need for facilitating the safe and secure deployment of nuclear technologies globally. It notes that the development of small and medium-sized or modular reactors (SMRs), for those who may wish to use them, should be done in a safe, secure and safeguarded manner, and underlines the central role of the IAEA in this field, and the IAEA Director General’s Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative in this regard. Alternatively, we should merge this paragraph with paragraph 26.

Regarding paragraph 16, while again noting that this is language from 2010, we feel it would be more appropriate to phrase as “The Conference takes note of the concerns of all coastal states, including small island developing States, with regard to the transportation of radioactive materials by sea...”

Regarding paragraph 18 we would suggest it could be better phrased: “The Conference reminds all States Parties of the importance of ensuring nuclear safety and security regarding peaceful nuclear facilities and materials in all circumstances, including by observing the IAEA’s seven indispensable pillars on nuclear safety and security derived from IAEA safety standards and nuclear security guidance for nuclear facilities, including those located in armed conflict zones.”

Regarding Paragraph 21 b, while we acknowledge the importance of civil liability instruments, we do not see any of them as adequately addressing the needs of coastal states, and as such we seek a small change to read: encourages States parties that have not yet done so to consider adhering to and implement international legal instruments on civil liability for nuclear damage and adopting suitable national legislation in this regard.

Regarding paragraph 21 a, we feel it would be more correct to state that the Conference: encourages States parties to support the IAEA Director General’s

efforts to seek to ensure the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear facilities and materials.

(if necessary) On export control regimes, we do not agree with the view that export controls constrain peaceful uses. We have listened carefully to the discussions in this committee and in main committee II, we have not heard of specific instances to support this view.

Finally, let me assure you of my delegations support.

Thank you.