
2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
19 October 2022

Original: English

Main Committee III

Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 August 2022, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Denissen. (Netherlands)

Contents

General exchange of views (*continued*)

Focused exchange of views

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).



The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

General exchange of views (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Yoseph** (Ethiopia) said that article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons provided for the inalienable right of States to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with certain provisions of the Treaty. The Treaty also established an obligation for the nuclear-weapon States to make the potential benefits from any peaceful applications of nuclear explosions available to non-nuclear-weapon States parties on a non-discriminatory basis and without any charge for research and development. However, the current reality showed that much remained to be done, particularly in terms of strengthening international cooperation.

2. Nearly 700 million people in Africa had no access to clean energy. Half of the countries on the continent had no radiation therapy machines, and many more had insufficient radiation technology to meet the medical needs of their populations. Underdevelopment of the agricultural sector and food insecurity were consequences of a lack of both the capacity and the nuclear technology needed to enable the safe storage and preservation of agricultural goods and produce. The application of nuclear technology had a pivotal role to play in addressing those challenges. African States required nuclear energy to form part of their energy mixes in order to achieve the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Sustainable Development Goals. There was also a need for rigorous efforts to equip the health, agricultural and water sectors, among others. The African Commission on Nuclear Energy played an important role in that regard by promoting regional and subregional cooperation in the peaceful uses of science and technology.

3. Ethiopia had signed a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as consecutive country programme frameworks covering areas including nuclear radiation safety and security. IAEA had provided support in terms of training and capacity-building, notably in the area of veterinary disease diagnostics. His Government looked forward to enhancing its cooperation with the nuclear-weapon States and IAEA in order to achieve its national objectives concerning the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

4. The Rays of Hope cancer treatment initiative launched earlier that year, aimed at supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3, was critical for Africa. IAEA should redouble its efforts

towards implementing that initiative and work actively with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy to achieve the relevant targets. In addition, the nuclear-weapon States should significantly enhance their investment in nuclear-related initiatives for development.

5. **Mr. Viinanen** (Finland) said that the Non-Proliferation Treaty enshrined the inalienable right of all States parties to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy without discrimination and established a framework for safeguards, which were fundamental to maintaining confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear activities and preventing nuclear proliferation. Crucially, the Treaty had also ensured that nuclear energy and other peaceful nuclear technologies were available to non-nuclear-weapon States. Nuclear energy was an important cost-effective means of attaining carbon neutrality, which his country aimed to achieve by 2035. New technologies such as small modular reactors would also have positive effects, including with regard to the enhanced integration of nuclear power with energy from renewable sources.

6. The use of nuclear energy required long-term commitment and planning, from the initial construction of plants to the final disposal of radioactive waste. When planning any type of nuclear facility, ensuring safety, security and safeguards by design was crucial. That strategy provided benefits to all parties, through more efficient and effective safeguards mobilized through a common effort of all parties, including plant designers, operators, regulators and IAEA. Finland was enabling the highest level of IAEA safeguards implementation, having concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement 50 years earlier and subsequently signing an additional protocol thereto. All States should sign such protocols, which were the current standard for nuclear safeguards and improved the performance of national regulators by giving them a full picture of fuel-cycle activities in their respective countries.

7. In Finland, the construction of a geological repository for spent nuclear fuel was nearing completion. Since implementing traditional IAEA safeguards measures would not be possible after disposal of the spent fuel, new safeguards would be introduced. Ensuring that the operator and the authorities had the appropriate knowledge regarding the nuclear waste in the depositary would be crucial. The depositary would serve as a safe and secure solution, subject to safeguards, for dealing with nuclear waste. Finland had requested that IAEA perform all the necessary measures and actions to confirm that no undeclared activities or materials would ever be associated with the geological repository.

8. Nuclear applications could bring enormous benefits to millions of people worldwide, while also playing an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the fields of energy, health, medicine, food, agriculture and water. Nuclear power could also contribute to ensuring the security of national energy supplies, reaching agreed emissions targets and mitigating climate change. Finland supported the IAEA technical cooperation programme, which it supported through annual contributions.

9. Finland was very concerned about the disregard by the Russian Federation of the seven indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security set out by the IAEA Director General in March 2022. The indiscriminate attacks of the Russian armed forces in and around nuclear sites in Ukraine had increased the risk of a nuclear accident, with potentially severe consequences for human health and the environment.

10. The development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy had enormous potential, but also required a high degree of responsibility from the States that sought to utilize them. In order to fully benefit from nuclear technologies, States must have the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguards in place and fully commit to non-proliferation in line with Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations.

11. **Ms. Kuzee** (Namibia) said that Namibia remained fully committed to the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the right to peaceful use of nuclear technology. It recognized that those pillars were interdependent and were most effective when operating alongside one another. Moreover, ensuring that all States parties were able to exercise their inalienable right, under article IV of the Treaty, to develop research, production and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes was crucial. Measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and security must not be used as a pretext to deny or restrict those inalienable rights for developing countries.

12. IAEA provided the framework for the safeguards system, thereby ensuring that the application of nuclear technologies was integrated into existing development initiatives and plans. It also supported the identification of areas in which such technologies could be usefully deployed. The technical cooperation between Namibia and IAEA was indispensable in building national capacity through the acquisition of skills and knowledge in nuclear science and technology, which would also facilitate technology transfer. The Agency should prioritize the development and transfer of affordable

nuclear technology in order to enhance scientific and technological capabilities, with a view to expanding and promoting the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in developing countries.

13. Namibia welcomed the efforts by IAEA to strengthen opportunities for women in nuclear science and disarmament. The significant nexus between gender, disarmament and development should continue to remain in focus.

14. No country required nuclear weapons to settle conflicts. The peaceful uses of nuclear technology continued to be beneficial to States parties and, when appropriately regulated, promoted peace, security and sustainable development.

15. **Ms. Quintero Correa** (Colombia) said that preserving the integrity of the Non-Proliferation Treaty was crucial. During the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the commitments made at previous Review Conferences must be reaffirmed, and measures must be established to accelerate implementation of the Treaty. History had borne witness to the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. To ensure that it promoted the well-being of humanity, nuclear energy must be used only for peaceful purposes and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The inalienable right of all States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of the Treaty, and to participate in the fullest possible exchange and transfer of knowledge, equipment and nuclear technology, comprised a fundamental pillar of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Technical assistance and cooperation should be strengthened, with a view to broadening the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology and improving access to its benefits, particularly in developing countries, taking into consideration their needs, priorities and IAEA country programme frameworks.

17. The current Review Conference was an opportunity to strengthen the implementation of article IV of the Treaty as well as cooperation to that end, particularly with regard to the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the current challenges related to sustainable development and climate change. Her delegation commended the work of IAEA on capacity-building for States in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its development of initiatives to address zoonotic agents and improve the capabilities of countries to respond to possible future pandemics.

18. Nuclear technology could make significant contributions to development. It was necessary to mobilize resources for such applications and build capacities in nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, particularly in developing countries. The IAEA technical cooperation programme must therefore have sufficient, assured and predictable resources; efforts must be redoubled in that regard.

19. Safeguards for nuclear programmes, as well as technological and physical nuclear security measures, were essential. The promotion of a culture of security must guide nuclear activities and programmes. The work of IAEA was significant in that regard, and her delegation wished to draw attention to the working paper entitled “Recognizing the IAEA’s Seven Pillars in the Context of Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.69). Security in the transportation of radioactive materials and compliance with international technological and physical security standards were also crucial, as was ensuring the relevant environmental protections. Continued communication between coastal States and shipping States on those matters was important.

20. Colombia supported the promotion of education for disarmament and non-proliferation; the incorporation of a gender perspective into disarmament and non-proliferation policies and programmes; and the promotion of nuclear science and technology and their applications for development.

21. **Mr. Rojas** (Peru) said that balanced and simultaneous implementation of the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty was necessary. Furthermore, article IV, concerning the inalienable right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, must be strictly respected. None of the provisions of the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting that right. Article IV referred to the commitment of States parties to facilitating the exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information through cooperation mechanisms that gave due consideration to the needs of the developing areas of the world. In that regard, the work of IAEA was commendable, both in terms of the safeguards system and in fostering international cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Amidst the current challenges and geopolitical tensions, Peru reaffirmed its support for the work of the IAEA Director General and urged all States to cooperate, in good faith, to enable the Agency to fulfil its mandate.

22. The support provided by IAEA to Peru had allowed his country to make significant progress in particularly relevant areas, including human health and food security. As a result, several projects had been developed, including on the improvement of diagnoses and treatment for tumours in paediatric patients and the strengthening of capacities for monitoring, early detection and containment of blights in banana crops. The Agency had also offered assistance and cooperation to its member States through an efficient and timely response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it played an important role in detecting and combating zoonotic diseases. In that connection, the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative would provide significant support to the international community in terms of preventing future pandemics.

23. The direct cooperation between IAEA and its member States was complemented by the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was an excellent framework for a more strategic approach to the use of nuclear technology in tackling common challenges in the region. The number of projects being implemented in different regions should be taken into account in the distribution of IAEA resources. The active participation of Peru in cooperation programmes was testament to its support for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which his country had always defended and promoted. Peru would continue to adhere to the provisions of the Treaty in that area, as its implementation had a direct impact on its own population and contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for developing countries.

24. **Mr. Işilak** (Türkiye) said that all States parties, without discrimination, should be able to benefit from nuclear technology in accordance with article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Nuclear power, science and technology had made substantial contributions to improving quality of life globally and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, nuclear energy played an integral role in low-carbon energy transitions.

25. IAEA played an invaluable and central role in international nuclear cooperation. The Agency also contributed to global socioeconomic development and to combating new and emerging challenges, such as the spread of zoonotic diseases, climate change and plastic pollution. Ensuring the financial sustainability of IAEA technical cooperation activities was of paramount importance. The Agency also had a key role in ensuring the safety and security of nuclear material, as well as the implementation of safeguards.

26. Türkiye was establishing its nuclear power infrastructure in close cooperation with IAEA and closely followed the recommendations of the Agency to ensure the highest level of safety and security standards in its nuclear power programme. The working paper entitled “Recommendations for consideration by the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.10, also referred to as the “landing zone” paper) of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative provided valuable concrete and practical recommendations regarding the peaceful uses and applications of nuclear technology.

27. His delegation wished to highlight the importance of the safety and security of the nuclear facilities and materials in Ukraine. No actions that put them at risk should be taken, and the utmost restraint should be exercised. The most recent developments in and around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant were particularly alarming. In that regard, the seven pillars set out by the IAEA Director General should be taken into account. Türkiye had hosted several meetings between the IAEA Director General and the Ukrainian and Russian authorities, respectively. Continued uninterrupted communication and cooperation between the relevant national authorities and the Agency was required.

28. **Mr. Lilly** (New Zealand) said that all three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty were crucial to its integrity and credibility. Implementation of the third pillar, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, had resulted in widespread benefits for the international community, including advancements in pest control, enhanced crop performance and improved cancer treatment, and there was potential to do even more. Nuclear technology could have significant value in international development efforts, including efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In that connection, New Zealand actively participated in projects to tackle development challenges in the region, in cooperation with IAEA.

29. In order to take advantage of the benefits of nuclear science and technology, sharing and cooperation in relation to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must continue to be underpinned by the international safeguards system managed by IAEA and the broader non-proliferation regime. The peaceful use of such technology could not take place in the absence of the assurances that only IAEA safeguards could provide. New Zealand took its obligations seriously in that regard, as demonstrated by its implementation of both an additional protocol and a modified small quantities protocol to its safeguards agreement. A comprehensive safeguards agreement supplemented by an additional

protocol constituted the current verification standard. All States that had not yet signed an additional protocol should therefore do so at the earliest opportunity.

30. Despite having elected not to use nuclear energy, New Zealand recognized the right of States parties to do so under article IV of the Treaty. Nuclear energy operations must be governed by the highest safety and security standards possible, including at the transport and waste management stages. The effects of nuclear accidents, particularly those that occurred during the maritime transport of nuclear material, could be long-lasting and dire in terms of their impact on human and environmental health. As a coastal State, New Zealand had long advocated the safe and secure transport of radioactive material by sea. Coastal States and other interested States should receive notification in advance of nuclear material shipments. The ongoing dialogue and cooperation between coastal and shipping States concerning communication protocols in relation to shipments of certain radioactive materials was welcome, as were efforts to improve the international nuclear liability regime.

31. Nuclear security was paramount to the peaceful use of nuclear technology. New Zealand remained committed to strengthening international security standards, including by providing extrabudgetary resources to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. The imperative of effective nuclear security applied to all States, including those possessing only small quantities of nuclear and radioactive material. Nuclear security must not be considered a burden or restriction, but rather recognized as an indispensable component of the responsible use of nuclear technology.

32. It was important to recognize the unprecedented threat to nuclear safety and security posed by the unprovoked and illegal attack by Russia on Ukraine. The actions of Russia had compromised the indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security set out by the Director General of IAEA. New Zealand continued to condemn the actions of Russia in the strongest of terms. His delegation supported the working paper of the Vienna Group of Ten (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.3/Rev.1), which included recommendations on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on nuclear safety and security.

33. **Mr. Baumann** (Switzerland) said that the inalienable right of States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was a core element of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In order to create an environment conducive to nuclear cooperation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful applications, a solid

non-proliferation and safeguards regime, which must include export controls, was required.

34. The IAEA technical cooperation programme played a crucial role in enabling countries to achieve their national development objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals. Switzerland was a major contributor to the Technical Cooperation Fund, and also provided significant extrabudgetary contributions.

35. Ensuring that nuclear energy was used for peaceful purposes, in a safe and secure manner, required a skilled workforce. Switzerland was working with IAEA to support its capacity-building activities. It also contributed to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, with a view to giving more career opportunities in the nuclear field to young women. The application of the highest standards of nuclear safety and security was crucial for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. All States parties should adhere to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and other relevant international legal instruments.

36. The threats to the safety and security of nuclear facilities, such as those resulting from the Russian aggression against Ukraine, were unacceptable and jeopardized the access of States parties to the benefits of their peaceful uses. Switzerland condemned the irresponsible attack by Russia on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Recent reports of renewed military activities in that area were particularly concerning. Armed attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes were a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the statute of IAEA. His delegation urged all parties to the conflict to refrain from conducting military operations in the vicinity of nuclear facilities and to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law. The seven pillars of nuclear safety and security, as defined by the IAEA Director General, constituted essential elements of nuclear safety and security and must be respected under all circumstances, including during an armed conflict.

37. While safety and security were national responsibilities, IAEA played an important role in the development of multilaterally agreed standards and the provision of capacity-building and advisory services, such as peer review missions. The outcomes of the peer review missions in which his country had participated underscored the commitment of Switzerland to continuously improving its nuclear safety and security regimes.

38. In recent years, significant developments had taken place in the fields of nuclear safety and security and peaceful uses. During the International Conference

on Nuclear Security, the collective commitment to a strong global security architecture and the central coordinating role of IAEA had been reaffirmed. His delegation welcomed the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 2016 and the success of the first Conference of the Parties to the Amendment. The IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology held in 2018 had also been a major success, underscoring the important role of nuclear science and technology in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda; a follow-up to that ministerial conference should be held.

39. **Mr. Zlenko** (Ukraine) said that the Non-Proliferation Treaty guaranteed the right of all States parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with their basic non-proliferation obligations. Moreover, Ukraine advocated a balanced approach to the implementation of the three pillars of the Treaty.

40. Since 24 February 2022, the date of the start of the full-scale aggression of Russia against Ukraine, the right of his country to use and develop nuclear energy had been undermined to an extent that had never previously been seen in global history. The aggressor had attacked Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, including its critical facilities, thus creating unprecedented nuclear safety and security threats for Ukraine and the international community. The Chernobyl exclusion zone had been used by Russian troops to advance to Kyiv, while the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant had been seized by the Russian army on 4 March 2022 after heavy shelling at the facilities of the plant. Unfortunately, the international community and IAEA had been unprepared for the threats and challenges in the nuclear field that had been created by the Russian war against Ukraine. It was also clear that all the actions of Russia were deliberate, coordinated and well planned. By shelling and occupying Ukrainian nuclear facilities, Russia had flagrantly violated fundamental norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, which prohibited military actions in the vicinity of and against nuclear installations.

41. Russia had not limited itself to the deployment of Russian energy company staff, military personnel and equipment to the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Since the seizure of the site by Russia, the employees and local residents had been under constant physical and psychological pressure, including as a result of kidnappings, illegal detentions, interrogations, torture and the blocking of communications. In addition, Russian missiles systematically flew over the

functioning Ukrainian nuclear power plants, which significantly increased the risk of nuclear accidents, given the low level of accuracy of Russian strikes. There were also reasonable grounds to believe that Russia might use seized Ukrainian nuclear material for provocation and terrorist acts in third countries, with the aim of accusing Ukraine of proliferation and other illegal activities.

42. There were no limits to the nuclear terrorism conducted by Russia. On 5 August 2022 and on the subsequent days, the Russian occupying forces had shelled the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, resulting in damage to parts of the installation and its equipment, including the high voltage power supply line, the nitrogen-oxygen station and three radiation monitoring sensors near the dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel. The situation was gravely complicated by the placement by the occupying army of their military equipment, including weapons and explosives, in the machine rooms of two power units. Ukraine reiterated its call for the international community to close the sky over the nuclear power plants of Ukraine and provide air defence systems. Doing so would contribute to the protection of all Ukrainian nuclear power plants, while also returning control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant to Ukraine.

43. At the current critical juncture, the Non-Proliferation Treaty community should pay special attention to armed attacks against nuclear facilities. The Review Conference should also recognize such attacks as a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and the statute of IAEA. There was a clear need to adopt legally binding commitments prohibiting armed attacks against nuclear facilities devoted to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

44. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that the peaceful use of nuclear energy was a matter of great importance. Advances in the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries were particularly valuable. More prominence should be given to the third pillar of the Non-Proliferation Treaty during the current Review Conference. In that regard, the work of the Committee should be intensified, while ensuring that attention was not diverted from progress on other pillars, notably that of nuclear disarmament.

45. Peaceful nuclear technologies were no longer exclusively the preserve of developed countries. Rather, they had become a central part of the global nuclear agenda, in the light of their various contributions to sustainable social and economic development. Nuclear technology contributed to, *inter alia*, energy security,

climate change mitigation, health care and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The centrality of IAEA in all those endeavours should be strengthened, taking into account its mandate, under its statute, to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The implementation of the verification mandate of IAEA should not be detrimental to its role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Brazil supported various initiatives in that area, as well as the active participation of the Agency in the latest sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

46. As a country with renowned medical institutions, widely available equipment and facilities and highly qualified professionals, Brazil was an important partner for IAEA in regional and interregional projects aimed at providing training in specialized procedures and good practices. Through the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, IAEA had long contributed to the development and dissemination of various techniques in a multitude of fields in Brazil and the Latin American region. The Review Conference could further empower IAEA to assist its member States in strengthening their nuclear capabilities in support of their technological and economic development. To that end, the IAEA technical cooperation programme should be strengthened and improved, particularly for least developed countries.

47. Member States should spare no efforts to meet the requirements related to safety, security and safeguards. The safety and security conditions of the nuclear installations in Ukraine were deeply concerning. While commending IAEA for its strenuous work on that extremely sensitive issue, his delegation called upon all parties concerned to fully comply with their international obligations regarding nuclear safety and security. The situation in Ukraine increased the urgency of the need for all States to uphold the seven pillars of nuclear safety and security presented by the IAEA Director General.

48. Nuclear safety and security considerations should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities. The responsibility for nuclear safety within a State lay entirely with that State. While IAEA could provide assistance, upon request, in the form of expertise and advice to its member States, the ownership of its cooperation programmes should always be shared with recipient countries, irrespective of any resources provided by donor countries.

49. The adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons had marked a departure from the traditional security-oriented priorities of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The momentum created by the humanitarian approach to nuclear weapons had not only led to the adoption of a Treaty that was complementary to the Non-Proliferation Treaty; it had also resulted in a renewed emphasis on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and their spread to the developing and least developed countries that were parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

50. **Ms. Balázs** (Hungary) said that the Non-Proliferation Treaty was an important element in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. As a country with an active peaceful nuclear programme, with plans for further expansion, Hungary acknowledged that all States parties had an inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, without discrimination and in conformity with article IV of the Treaty. Accordingly, his country was a sponsor of the working paper entitled “Facilitating Dialogue to Support Enhanced Peaceful Uses Cooperation as Envisioned under Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46/Rev.1](#)).

51. Nuclear energy was a cost-effective, climate-friendly, safe and stable source of electricity that could contribute to the achievement of goals related to the environment and sustainable development. Nuclear energy remained a key component of the energy mix in Hungary, meeting the growing demand for affordable electricity. The expansion of the national nuclear power plant would be even more important given the current extremely volatile energy market. Nuclear power was key to ensuring the necessary affordable energy resources.

52. Hungary attached utmost importance to the full implementation of IAEA safeguards, which played a critical role in fostering international confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear activities. The work of IAEA was invaluable in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a safe and secure manner, subject to safeguards, including through its technical cooperation programme. Nuclear safety and security served to sustain the peaceful use of nuclear energy and contribute to maintaining its positive public perception. Given that they were mutually reinforcing, they should be regulated in a synergetic manner at all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

53. International cooperation was also essential in those areas. Hungary put special emphasis on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy section of the action

plan contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, which addressed the safe and secure development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the central role played by IAEA. With regard to nuclear safety, the IAEA standards provided a complex system of fundamental principles, requirements and guides. Hungary was committed to achieving the highest possible standards in all aspects of nuclear safety, and was therefore ready to provide assistance and cooperate with interested partners by sharing its own experience and expertise in nuclear power plant operation and maintenance. IAEA also played a central coordinating role in ensuring adequate nuclear security, and must therefore receive reliable and sufficient technical, human and financial resources.

54. Full implementation of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan was a priority, and all States should take advantage of IAEA advisory services. The implementation of commitments in the area of physical protection and security of nuclear materials and facilities, such as those contained in the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, was also indispensable. Hungary actively participated in initiatives such as the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, which played an important role in strengthening the nuclear security architecture with IAEA at its centre. It was also important that the so-called “Vienna issues” were given appropriate weight during the current Review Conference.

55. **Mr. Mudzviti** (Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe was unequivocally committed to the international goals of arms control and disarmament. The pursuit of non-proliferation should not undermine the inalienable right of States to use nuclear technology and applications for peaceful purposes. The right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was one of the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and must be protected and preserved. Nuclear safety and security should never be used as a pretext to curtail the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly for developing countries. That right included the right of States to exchange equipment, materials and scientific information, as well as to participate in and promote international cooperation without discrimination, in conformity with article IV of the Treaty. Zimbabwe was a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), which provided for the promotion of the use of nuclear science and technology for social and economic development.

56. Nonetheless, the right to peaceful uses and applications of nuclear energy for development

purposes should be enjoyed responsibly, with adequate IAEA safeguards in place to prevent nuclear material and technology from falling into the wrong hands, particularly those of terrorist and extremist groups. States engaged in developing sustainable programmes for the application of safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy must establish adequate legal frameworks, to ensure compliance with the relevant international legal instruments. Accordingly, Zimbabwe had signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol thereto with IAEA and had acceded to several international conventions on radiation safety and nuclear safety.

57. Like other States parties in the developing world, Zimbabwe lacked skilled human resources in the field of nuclear science and technology. His country therefore sought assistance and cooperation from both State and non-State partners, in line with the Treaty, to develop human resources in those areas, particularly within its training institutions.

58. **Ms. Elardja Flitti** (Observer for the League of Arab States) said that the peaceful use of nuclear energy was an inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Reinterpreting the provisions of the Treaty in a way that ran counter to that right was prohibited under article IV of the Treaty, which clearly stipulated that it was an inalienable right granted to all States parties without discrimination and subject only to articles I and II of the Treaty. Non-compliance with article IV undermined one of the three pillars of the Treaty and the bargain that had led non-nuclear-weapon States to become parties to the Treaty.

59. While there were continued attempts to curtail the right of States parties to benefit from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, cooperation existed between States that possessed nuclear technology and materials and States that were not parties to the Treaty. That reflected double standards and was a breach of the decision entitled “Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament” adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In compliance with articles I, II and III of the Treaty, States parties and IAEA should stop their cooperation and technical programmes with Israel unless that country acceded to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and subjected all of its nuclear facilities to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards regime. That was an essential precondition for enhancing the universality, credibility and effectiveness of the Treaty.

60. The League supported, in principle, the strengthening of the comprehensive safeguards regime.

The additional protocol nonetheless remained voluntary in nature, as a tool to support the safeguards agreement. Any attempt to impose additional commitments and restrictions on non-nuclear-weapon States without achieving progress towards nuclear disarmament upset the balance among the pillars of the Treaty and called its credibility into question.

61. IAEA and States with advanced peaceful nuclear technology should provide technical assistance to developing countries, particularly those that had announced plans to use such technology to generate energy and achieve sustainable development, which included a number of League members. The League stood ready to cooperate in order to implement the pillars of the Treaty, including by guaranteeing the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which would contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

62. **Ms. Mendoza Basulto** (Observer for the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean) said that the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and other treaties that established nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, together provided a solid framework for promoting trust and cooperation in relation to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Notably, the Treaty of Tlatelolco provided that nuclear energy must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also enshrined the right for countries in the regional nuclear-weapon-free zone to exercise fully their right to nuclear energy, equitably and for the socioeconomic development of their peoples.

63. She drew attention to the working paper submitted by the States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.7](#)), in particular the recommendations concerning full respect for the inalienable right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, in accordance with article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the essential role of IAEA and its safeguards system in the implementation of the Treaty.

64. The implementation of education programmes for peace, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation effectively contributed to the consolidation of international peace and security. Accordingly, member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean continued to promote the participation of young diplomats, other

civil servants and students in educational activities related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

65. Recognition of the significant contribution of women in the region to the promotion of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control had been one of the priorities of member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean during the review cycle. The States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco had recently adopted a resolution on gender, non-proliferation and disarmament, reaffirming their commitment to the equal, full and effective participation of women as one of the essential factors in promoting peace and security.

Focused exchange of views

Peaceful uses and related issues

66. **Ms. Blalock** (United States of America) said that since the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology had brought many benefits to all States parties. The United States had long been a supporter of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as demonstrated by its many contributions to the promotion of such uses over the past review cycle, and was seeking to expand access to those peaceful uses, which could help States to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and enable progress worldwide.

67. Given the particular need for nuclear technology to help alleviate challenges in developing regions, the United States had recently reallocated a 10 million euro surplus from a previous donation to IAEA to support the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology and the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy. Through provision of assistance under article IV of the Treaty, in recent years, notably in the form of funding, her country had sought to help meet the needs and address the challenges identified by States.

68. Her country had recently launched a series of bilateral peaceful uses projects and partnerships whereby United States-based medical societies were facilitating access to nuclear and radiological medicine, providing capacity-building assistance and helping to improve training and patient care in Africa. A grant had also been issued to run a workshop later that year to build connections and capabilities in the Western Hemisphere. Additionally, her Government had recently provided over \$2.1 million to 19 IAEA technical cooperation projects. That funding would support

projects in the Bahamas, Belize, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Dominica, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago and Zambia, in areas ranging from human health to environmental management. The United States was thus contributing to the achievement of those countries' socioeconomic development goals and supporting IAEA in facilitating the peaceful nuclear cooperation envisioned in the Treaty.

69. The United States reiterated its support for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, recognizing the inalienable right of States parties to develop peaceful uses in conformity with their non-proliferation obligations, and remained committed to facilitating the fullest possible exchange in that area and furthering the many benefits of the peaceful uses of energy, science and technology within the parameters of the Treaty.

70. **Mr. Balouji** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he wished to draw attention to the proposed content elaborated by his delegation for inclusion in the final document of the Review Conference contained in paragraph 15 of the working paper entitled "The inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes" (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.49). In addition, the Review Conference should, in its final document, express profound concern about and strongly condemn attacks or threats of attack on nuclear facilities and declare that they constituted a serious threat to the IAEA safeguards regime and were considered by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as prohibited.

71. **Ms. Haines** (United Kingdom) said that the current Review Conference offered an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. That included reaffirming its commitment to article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty; emphasizing the excellent work being undertaken to facilitate access to peaceful uses, both bilaterally and multilaterally; and recognizing that there were still areas requiring further work to expand access to the benefits of peaceful uses, particularly in developing countries.

72. The United Kingdom was one of a growing number of States parties that supported a sustained dialogue on peaceful uses. Her delegation encouraged others to sponsor the working paper entitled "Facilitating Dialogue to Support Enhanced Peaceful Uses Cooperation as Envisioned under Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46/Rev.1). Sustained dialogue was an important way of taking concrete action on article IV and ensuring that developing countries could fully benefit from peaceful uses. The United Kingdom

hoped that, in its final document, the current Review Conference would recognize the importance of continuing to expand access to the benefits of peaceful uses and highlight the importance of sustained dialogue.

73. **Mr. Fremy** (France) said that ensuring access to the peaceful applications of nuclear technology must not undermine respect for export control regimes, which were essential to combating proliferation. The development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology must be accompanied by the establishment of a solid non-proliferation framework and the implementation of the highest standards of nuclear safety and security, which were essential for nuclear sustainability.

74. Nuclear energy and techniques were making a significant contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, nuclear energy was a readily available, sustainable, clean and reliable source of energy that would continue to play a crucial role in combating climate change and mitigating its effects on the environment. It would also contribute to addressing the rising global demand for electricity as part of a diverse energy mix that also included energy from renewable sources.

75. IAEA should continue in its efforts to support States wishing to develop nuclear power programmes. States themselves should pursue innovation in the field of nuclear energy, as innovations – such as improved high-power reactors, small modular reactors, Generation IV reactors and potentially, in the future, nuclear fusion – were key to being able to use nuclear power to address challenges related to climate change. States should reflect on the appropriate financing mechanisms to enable developing States to use nuclear energy. Small modular reactors and advanced modular reactors were promising avenues for accessing safe, affordable and carbon-free energy. His delegation also recognized the diversity and wealth of non-power nuclear techniques in fields as varied as health, agriculture, nutrition and water management.

76. **Mr. Masykur** (Indonesia) said that the report of Main Committee III should reflect his country's concern regarding the potential consequences of any cooperation involving the transfer by any nuclear-weapon State to any non-nuclear-weapon State of nuclear materials or technology for military purposes, including transfers intended to support nuclear-powered submarine capability. In its working paper on nuclear naval propulsion (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.67), Indonesia had called upon all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to garner political will and create opportunities for IAEA member States to develop a constructive

approach to verification and monitoring arrangements for the nuclear naval propulsion programme, which should help to enhance safeguards agreements and monitoring measures in order to prevent the diversion of nuclear materials from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons programmes.

77. **Ms. Gómez Sardiñas** (Cuba) drew the attention of the Committee to the working paper on substantive recommendations for incorporation into the final document of the Review Conference submitted by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.26). The Group had extensively discussed the 18 recommendations contained therein, and Cuba expected that they be reflected in the final document.

78. **Mr. Gil de la Serna** (Spain) said that Spain agreed with comments made by other delegations, including the United Kingdom; in particular, Spain supported the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses initiative. The Committee should recognize the central role of IAEA and the importance of its Technical Cooperation Fund in expanding the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in line with the principles governing peaceful use set out in the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Committee should also emphasize the role of export control regimes in facilitating and supporting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was also important that the final document of the Review Conference reflect the importance of the cross-cutting issue of gender, which had implications for all three pillars of the Treaty.

79. **Mr. Hikihara** (Japan) said that Japan reaffirmed States parties' inalienable right to the development of research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, which must be accompanied by a commitment to and the ongoing implementation of safeguards, security and safety measures and radiation protection measures. Like many other States parties, Japan supported the ongoing efforts by IAEA to enhance the contribution of nuclear technology to solutions to global challenges and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, it was important that the final document of the Review Conference reflect the need to improve access to nuclear science and technology, bearing in mind the particular needs of developing countries – which could be addressed through capacity-building, provision of equipment and perhaps the strengthening of regional networks. International technical cooperation was one of the most valuable tools to that end. The Committee should highlight the need to create opportunities for the wider use of nuclear applications, in the light of the growing recognition of the versatility of nuclear

technologies and their potential in the areas of human health, nutrition, food security and safety, agriculture, water management, environmental protection and industry, in addition to energy production. The Committee should also mention the need to strengthen nuclear safety and radiation protection. In relation to all of the above elements, the Committee should emphasize the important roles of IAEA and the international legal framework. He drew attention to the working paper submitted by Japan on the enhancement of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.44/Rev.1).

80. **Ms. Lazaro** (Philippines) said that, in its report, the Committee should reaffirm the inalienable right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; recognize the significant contributions of peaceful uses of nuclear technology to sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; recognize the importance of capacity-building, especially for developing countries; and, lastly, express support for the technical cooperation programme of IAEA.

81. **Mr. Elghitany** (Egypt) said that, in its report, the Committee should emphasize that article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty clearly set out the importance of international cooperation in support of the inalienable right of all States parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Such cooperation was a fundamental objective of the Treaty and an integral part of the grand bargain made 50 years earlier. The right of States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes must continue to be protected, and there should be no hinderances or restrictions that were not enshrined in the legal framework or part of the delicate balance of the initial grand bargain.

82. IAEA played a valuable role in transferring expertise and providing technical support and assistance to countries in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. States must ensure the availability of the financial resources required for technical cooperation programmes so that all technical cooperation activities could be carried out as planned.

83. It was essential to adopt a balanced approach to the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, without discrimination and taking into account its various fields of application, including power generation and other, non-power-related fields. Many countries had not benefited from the tremendous advances in the field of nuclear energy as a result of unjustified restrictions imposed on the transfer of nuclear technologies, especially those technologies associated with advanced uses that were directly related to the nuclear fuel cycle.

However, the Treaty was clear: the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were presented therein as a single, integrated element, and no distinction was made between sensitive and non-sensitive applications. The only condition that the Treaty did place on the exercise of the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was that non-nuclear-weapon States must fulfil their non-proliferation-related obligations under its articles I, II and III, which consisted, mainly, in the application of comprehensive safeguards. As such, the imposition of additional restrictions ran counter to the Treaty, as well as to the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference, whose action 47 contained a call for States parties to respect each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy without jeopardizing its policies or international cooperation agreements.

84. Egypt greatly appreciated the efforts to highlight the contribution of nuclear technologies to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and specifically to combating climate change. It welcomed efforts to link nuclear energy to the assistance provided by various technical agencies, and, finally, it commended IAEA for its pivotal work using nuclear technology to help countries to achieve their development goals in the context of the climate crisis.

85. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that, in its report, the Committee should reflect a number of points. First, developing and least developed countries should be given priority for the allocation of resources from the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund. Second, ownership of cooperation programmes should always be shared with recipient countries, irrespective of the quantity of the resources provided by donor countries. Third, while compliance with safety and security requirements was important, nuclear safety and security considerations should not hamper international cooperation, nor should technical cooperation projects be made conditional on the fulfilment of related requirements. Lastly, nuclear naval propulsion was fully compatible with the Treaty and with IAEA nuclear safeguards provisions, and IAEA was capable of discharging its verification mandate in that field.

86. **Mr. Mabongo** (South Africa) said that his delegation fully supported the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without conditions or restrictions, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty. The exercise of that right was one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. In giving effect to article IV, States parties should be careful not to reinterpret or restrict that right. In that connection, South Africa recommended that the

Review Conference reaffirm the validity of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference, which, inter alia, called upon States parties to respect each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses. The Conference should also reaffirm that nuclear security should not be a precondition for access to nuclear science and technology for peaceful uses. The Treaty should be implemented holistically, without prejudice, and no aspect of it should be enforced more strictly than any other.

87. Resources for nuclear capacity-building should be sufficient, predictable and assured. Preferential treatment should be given to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties, and particular attention should be paid to the needs of developing countries. States must facilitate the transfer of nuclear technology and promote related international cooperation, in accordance with articles I to IV of the Treaty, and eliminate undue restrictions that were inconsistent with the Treaty.

88. **Ms. Hasan** (Iraq) said that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were essential for sustainable development, especially for developing countries, in view of the vital role of nuclear technologies in various sectors, including clean energy generation. In that regard, Iraq reaffirmed the critical role of IAEA in providing a high-quality framework for ensuring the peaceful nature of nuclear programmes and furthering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through a multilateral system, without discrimination.

89. IAEA should promote its essential role by facilitating the transfer of nuclear technologies to developing countries, and IAEA member States and States parties to the Treaty should promote cooperation on peaceful uses, in accordance with the Treaty. In addition, IAEA and the nuclear-weapon States should prioritize States parties to the Treaty when providing technical assistance on peaceful uses, in order to support the implementation and credibility of the Treaty. Lastly, Iraq emphasized the inalienable rights of States parties to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to access to nuclear technologies without discrimination or selectivity.

90. **Ms. El Abdaoui** (Morocco) said that, in its final document, the Review Conference should reaffirm the inalienable right of States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; reaffirm the central role of IAEA in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with the Treaty; underline the need for the IAEA technical cooperation programme to be provided with sustainable, predictable financial and human resources in order to ensure the sustainability of

projects; highlight the need to strengthen capacity-building, in particular for developing countries; and, lastly, reflect the intrinsic link between the peaceful use of nuclear energy and nuclear safety and security.

91. **Mr. Maamri** (Algeria) said that the need for export controls must not be used to justify the establishment of a selective, discriminatory regime that limited developing countries' access to nuclear materials, equipment and technology. The rules and restrictions on technology transfer and on exports of nuclear materials that were imposed on non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in particular developing countries, in order to prevent all proliferation, made it difficult – if not impossible – for those States to acquire any nuclear equipment that fell into the expandable category of dual-use technology. Such discriminatory and selective measures seriously undermined the inalienable right of States parties, enshrined in article IV of the Treaty, to enjoy the potential benefits of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with its articles I, II and III. Such measures also ran counter to paragraph 2 of article IV, in which States parties were called upon to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

92. **Mr. Li Sui** (China) drew the Committee's attention to working paper [NPT/CONF.2020/WP.31](#), in which China had detailed its views on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. With regard to the final report, he said that the Committee should reaffirm the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and underline the fact that the Treaty served peace and development and, specifically, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by contributing to solutions to climate-related challenges. It should also reaffirm that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and non-proliferation were complementary, equally important issues addressed by the Treaty and, as such, should be treated on an equal footing; non-proliferation efforts must not undermine the legitimate right of developing countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The politicization of the question of peaceful uses should be avoided, as should the imposition of artificial barriers or excessive restrictions. National security must not be used as a pretext to suppress other countries' industries and must not hamper regular international cooperation. There should be an emphasis on a rational, coordinated and balanced conception of nuclear safety that would support a fair, cooperative and win-win international nuclear safety system. Countries must, however, strictly comply with their nuclear safety

responsibilities and seek to improve nuclear safety in order to ensure the sound development of their nuclear industries.

93. China urged the Committee to reaffirm the need to strengthen the leadership of IAEA in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to call upon all States parties to actively support the Agency's technical cooperation activities with a view to ensuring the adequacy and predictability of resources for such activities. It should encourage developed States parties to step up their assistance and support to developing countries on peaceful uses and to provide them with preferential treatment in that regard.

94. Nuclear safety and security were essential to the peaceful use of nuclear energy for sustainable development; it was in the interest of all parties to enhance the safety of nuclear facilities and materials and prevent nuclear terrorism. The Committee should encourage the relevant countries to convert their high enriched uranium reactors to use low enriched uranium and to minimize the use of high enriched uranium, on a voluntary basis and where technically and economically feasible.

95. The Committee should emphasize that the peaceful use of nuclear energy must not come at the expense of the natural environment or human health. The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and the disposal of the resulting nuclear-contaminated water had a bearing on the global marine ecosystem and the health of the people of all countries. The international community should carefully take stock of the lessons learned from the accident and continuously improve nuclear safety efforts in order to preserve the safety of the global marine environment. In that connection, the Committee should call upon Japan to respond sincerely to the concerns of the international community and to consult fully with stakeholders, including the relevant international agencies; to stop forging ahead with its plan for the discharge of the nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean; to ensure that the water was disposed of in an open, transparent, science-based and safe manner, and consider alternatives to discharging it into the ocean; and to strictly follow the applicable IAEA safeguards.

96. **Ms. Kemppainen** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer) said that the European Union reaffirmed its support for the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty. It supported the work of IAEA and its

member States on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology; the States members of the European Union were, collectively, among the largest donors to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Fund.

97. Nuclear safety, security and safeguards were essential for the safe and responsible development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including in the implementation of all technical cooperation projects, and should be given due priority by the Review Conference. IAEA had a central role to play in that regard. For its part, the European Union remained committed to adhering to the highest safety, security and safeguards standards.

98. Export controls helped to promote the peaceful use of nuclear materials and equipment. The commitments on export controls made at previous Review Conferences, including the relevant actions of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference, remained valid and provided a good basis for discussions at the current Conference.

99. **Mr. Hikihara** (Japan) said that education and public information on peaceful uses were very important. In that connection, Japan commended the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses initiative spearheaded by the United Kingdom and the United States.

100. The arguments on the issue of the treated water from the Fukushima plant had been exhausted and all concerns addressed by his delegation at the previous meeting (NPT/CONF.2020/MC.III/SR.2). In response to the comment made during the current meeting about the need for Japan to take an open and science-based approach, he said that that was precisely the type of approach that his country had been taking for the past six years and intended to take in the coming decades. Japan would continue to work closely with the appropriate agencies – primarily IAEA, whose leadership on nuclear safety was recognized by all countries – and to engage and communicate with the international community, including neighbouring countries.

101. **Mr. Brady** (Ireland) said that the Conference should call upon all States parties to recognize the seven pillars of nuclear safety and security in relation to nuclear facilities and materials devoted to peaceful purposes in all circumstances, including situations of armed conflict. The Conference should also promote the mainstreaming of gender perspectives, and specifically, it should encourage the implementation of initiatives like the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme of IAEA with a view to increasing the number of women in all nuclear fields.

Nuclear safety and related issues

102. **The Chair** said that actions 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64 of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference had a bearing on the topic of nuclear safety and related issues. Those actions pertained to nuclear safety, safe transport of radioactive materials, armed attacks against nuclear installations and nuclear liability. Main Committee II was the forum for specific issues related to nuclear security, but general matters related to both safety and security could be discussed in Main Committee III.

103. **Ms. Lazaro** (Philippines) said that in its report, the Committee should express its commitment to protecting human health, the environment and society by observing the highest standards of nuclear safety and security; recognize the harmful effects of ionizing radiation and emphasize that the highest standards of nuclear safety must be observed to prevent and mitigate such effects; and recognize the technical guidance of IAEA on security and safety, and highlight the importance of capacity-building in that regard.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.