



Statement by

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Deputy Permanent Representative, Vienna

at the

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Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster III

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Chair

Like other NPT states, New Zealand contributes to and benefits from advances in nuclear science in a number of areas including agriculture, human health and environmental management. We also recognise the contribution of nuclear applications and technology to developing countries and meeting the sustainable development goals.

In this regard, it is New Zealand's view that the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) has a key role to play and we have been pleased to support a number of projects through the PUI, such as monitoring radioactivity in the marine environment following the Fukushima accident and responding to sustained drought in the Sahel region. We also play an active role in projects under the auspices of the IAEA Regional Cooperative Agreement in the Asia-Pacific region.

Chair

While, like others, we have decided not to include nuclear power in our own energy mix, we also recognise the right of State Parties to the NPT to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under Article IV of the Treaty. In doing so, we would like to underscore that New Zealand is firm in its view that all countries developing and using nuclear technology must apply the highest standards of safeguards, safety and security to all nuclear facilities and material and across the full nuclear fuel cycle. For New Zealand, our Radiation Safety Act, which recently entered into force, enables us to effectively meet our own international obligations relating to radiation protection, safety, security and nuclear non-proliferation.

New Zealand is also aware of the risks involved in holding and using nuclear energy. For New Zealand, and many of our regional neighbours, the Fukushima accident reinforced the importance of continued vigilance and transparency on nuclear safety issues. It also clearly demonstrated that nuclear accidents do not respect national boundaries.

This would be particularly true for an accident occurring during the maritime transport of nuclear material. New Zealand continues to actively promote the safe transport of radioactive material, at the IAEA and other relevant forums. We are strongly of the view that it is essential that those transporting radioactive material adopt and apply the highest possible safety standards, and that coastal and other interested States receive notification in advance of relevant shipments. New Zealand was pleased to join a number of coastal and shipping states at the IAEA in agreeing

voluntary best practice guidelines on communication to apply to certain shipments of radioactive material. We value the ongoing dialogue and cooperation between interested coastal and shipping states in implementing these guidelines, and thank the United Kingdom and Ireland for their leadership of this dialogue at this time. We also welcome efforts to improve the international nuclear liability regime and will continue to work with others to ensure the concerns of non-nuclear coastal states are taken into account.

Chair

New Zealand remains committed to strengthening nuclear security. The potential humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences of terrorists gaining access to nuclear or radioactive materials are so grave, that the New Zealand Government is doing all within its power to minimise the possibility of this nightmare becoming a reality. In our view, the IAEA's work on nuclear security is indispensable, including for states like New Zealand with small quantities of nuclear and radioactive material. We commend the IAEA's IPPAS missions as a valuable tool to provide helpful and pragmatic assistance for securing nuclear and radioactive material.

In this regard, we are pleased to announce a further contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund of NZD150,000. We are also supporting a range of regional training activities in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, including a workshop in Thailand run by the World Institute of Nuclear Security, and projects in collaboration with US and Australia to improve nuclear detection and nuclear forensics respectively. Effective nuclear security is in all of our interests, and we call on all states to maintain at all times effective security of all nuclear and other radioactive material, including the 85% of material used for non-civilian purposes.

Chair

In closing, New Zealand recalls the Vienna Group of Ten statement and working paper and commends the Group's set of recommendations for your attention when addressing the 'Vienna issues.'

Thank you Chair.