

Statement by the Czech Republic
Cluster II
Second session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT
Geneva, 23 April – 4 May 2018

Mr. Chairman,

1. The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the EU statement delivered earlier. Nevertheless, I would like to point out to several issues that are of particular importance to my country.
2. The Czech Republic commends mutually reinforcing endeavours of the UN bodies as well as numerous international control regimes and initiatives in the area of non-proliferation. Thanks to that synergy, the second NPT pillar has been reinforced. However, while there is a general recognition of undisputable validity of UNSC resolution 1540, so far not all states abide completely by the relevant UNSC and IAEA resolutions nor do they fully comply with the NPT commitments.
3. The Czech Republic recognises the right of NPT States Parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This right should not be hampered but, at the same time, it must be exercised in full conformity with the non-proliferation obligations. Any case of non-compliance should be treated according to established international norms and the respective States should be held responsible and accountable for their violations. We strongly believe that all cases of non-compliance must be reported, as it is required by the IAEA Statute, to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. We are convinced that the international community has to seize opportunity and take up courage to rectify those few cases still undermining the global non-proliferation system and international security.
4. The Czech Republic therefore welcomed conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and supported its implementation by a voluntary contribution. According to our standpoint, the JCPOA together with UNSC resolution 2231 represents a well-suited product of effective multilateral diplomacy and a unique asset in the area of non-proliferation. Indeed, it can also serve as a precedent worth repeating should a window of opportunity to resolve a long-standing proliferation crisis appear. Thus, we are looking forward to a possible progress in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
5. In that context, we would like to emphasize a unique nature and irreplaceable role of the IAEA. Its verification activities in the area of safeguards directly contribute to deepening of international confidence and foster credibility of the NPT regime. The Czech Republic remains fully committed to strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system by actively participating in the IAEA Member States Support Programme since 2002, namely through organizing trainings for Agency's safeguards inspectors, developing and testing of new IAEA containment and surveillance equipment and offering high quality analytical services in the field of nuclear materials. We also provide our national nuclear facilities for testing of new safeguards verification methods.
6. The Czech Republic has been a continuous supporter of establishing the Additional Protocol as the core verification standard and the key measure to ensure the peaceful nature of

a nuclear programme. In our view, the acceptance of the Additional Protocol has a deterrent effect on nuclear proliferation and enables the Agency to implement the Integrated Safeguards approach, an optimum combination of all safeguards measures available to the Agency.

7. The Czech Republic participated actively in the Nuclear Security Summit process and supports its follow-up through the engagement in the Nuclear Security Contact Group. Through the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative and with the assistance of the United States, the Czech Republic has successfully repatriated all of its highly enriched uranium (HEU) and converted all of its research reactors to low enriched uranium fuel, thus effectively becoming a HEU-free country and fulfilling one of the main objectives of the NSS process.

8. We believe that promoting responsibility of all States for securing nuclear and radioactive materials on their territory and preventing non-state actors from acquiring these materials remains the utmost priority. We therefore stand convinced that the nuclear security is an indispensable element complementing peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear applications, thus an enabler, not a competitor of the IAEA technical cooperation activities.

Thank you for your attention.