

## **Statement by Norway, PrepCom II - Cluster III, 1 May 2018**

### *Check against delivery*

Mr Chair,

Norway fully recognises the inalienable right to peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology the the states parties to the Treaty. States parties that comply with their safeguards obligations under the NPT and the Additional Protocol inspire confidence in the peaceful nature of their nuclear activities. Nuclear energy developments must be based on the highest possible safety and security standards.

We have previously witnessed excess stocks of highly enriched uranium for weapons purposes being brought under IAEA safeguards, and subsequently used for generating electricity. In other words, nuclear disarmament can actually contribute to peaceful use.

Multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle offer opportunities for countries seeking to reap the benefits of nuclear energy, without having to develop costly enrichment or reprocessing facilities. Norway has contributed USD 5 million to the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank Facility in Kazakhstan, and we were pleased to be present at its inauguration. This facility is a good example of how peaceful uses and non-proliferation can mutually support each other, as well as supporting our nuclear disarmament agenda.

As a coastal state, Norway is particularly concerned to ensure that radioactive materials are transported in accordance with the highest standards of safety, security and environmental protection. We have noted the increased interest of certain states in the development of transportable nuclear power plants, and their use at sea. One such vessel is already at an advanced state of manufacture.

The transport of fuelled nuclear power plants by sea raises a number of questions and challenges, both of a regulatory and of a technical nature. Before any sea transport of a fuelled reactor can take place, the consensus of the relevant coastal states is essential. The Norwegian Government is pleased to see that the will to find such consensus is present.

In the light of this, Norway welcomes the IAEA's efforts to identify, understand and address key regulatory challenges associated with the deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs) and transportable nuclear power plants. Norway also welcomes the IAEA's efforts to develop a strategic approach to the issue of transportable reactors and notes that this work will call for coordination between the IAEA and the IMO. In due course, this work should address any gaps in the Agency's existing safety standards, guidance and regulations.

Norway calls for the full universalisation of relevant legally binding international instruments in the field of nuclear security and safety. The prime responsibility for safety and security lies with the states concerned. Nonetheless, we emphasise the urgent need to further enhance international partnerships, technical cooperation, best practices, peer-review mechanisms and other forms of assistance in this area. Given its unique expertise, reputation and mandate, the IAEA has a vital role to play in coordinating efforts to strengthen the international safety and security architecture.

Norway maintains its position that the IAEA's regular budget for nuclear safety and security should be increased. It is also important to continuously engage with the nuclear industry and relevant private sector actors on these matters.

Improved nuclear security will provide a more enabling environment for peaceful applications of nuclear science. For many years, a key priority for Norway has been the minimisation of the use of highly enriched uranium in civilian nuclear installations. Norway will host the third international symposium on this issue on 5-7 June this year in Oslo.

Mr Chair,

Norway joins other states parties in stressing that peaceful applications of nuclear technologies go far beyond the generation of electricity. Isotopes have important uses in several sectors, including health, food production, water management, environmental monitoring, and conservation of cultural heritage.

Broader nuclear applications such as these will continue to form a large part of the IAEA technical cooperation programme. We urge all states parties to pay their assessed share to the IAEA TC Fund in time, and to consider other voluntary contributions. Norway has provided funding for the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) and the Nuclear Security Fund, and we will continue to do so. We should all bear in mind that Article IV of the NPT is highly relevant for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Indeed, the IAEA is becoming an increasingly important partner in the efforts to promote sustainable development. However, it is important that these efforts are carried out in close cooperation and coordination with other relevant UN agencies and international organisations. We encourage the IAEA to continue to strengthen cooperative arrangements in these fields.

Thank you.