

**STATEMENT ON CLUSTER THREE ISSUES AT THE SECOND  
SESSION OF THE PREPCOM FOR THE 2020 NUCLEAR NON-  
PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) REVIEW CONFERENCE: 23 APRIL  
– 5 MAY 2018: GENEVA**

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Thank you Mr Chairman.

As we are in the final stages of this second session of the PrepCom, allow me to start by commending you on the professional manner in which you are steering its proceedings.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group on Cluster III issues. We therefore take the floor to reinforce some points and to make some additional comments in our national capacity.

Chair,

Zimbabwe wishes to reiterate its unequivocal commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which is the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. However, as we have said before, the foundation of the NPT rests on three pillars – disarmament, non-proliferation and access to, and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes – all of which are of equal weight and importance. It is in this respect that Zimbabwe takes its membership of, and its obligations, under both the NPT and the IAEA, very seriously. Hence our keen interest and active engagement in contributing towards the successful outcome of this preparatory process leading to the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Chair,

In more than 60 years of its existence, the IAEA has accomplished remarkable progress in availing the benefits of nuclear science and technology to the service

of humanity in terms of civilian applications. We want more attention to be given to this third pillar of the NPT. Our own limited collaboration as a country with the IAEA has yielded many practical results and tangible benefits for the country. Indeed our review of the NPT in 2020 should closely examine Article IV of the Treaty to see how this provision, which guarantees the inalienable right of all states to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, can be operationalised.

Finally Chair,

My delegation wishes to point out that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EU plus 3 has demonstrated the enormous potential and possibilities that international co-operation, dialogue and patient diplomacy can bring about, in the peaceful conduct of relations between and among states.

It will be remiss on my part if I fail to express the concern and disappointment of my delegation at the persistent attempts to politicise the work of the IAEA, as well as to smuggle into this PrepCom process, issues that fall outside the ambit of the NPT.

Mr Chairman

I thank You