



**Statement of Argentina to the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT – Cluster 3
New York, 29 April – 10 May 2019**

**Delivered by the Head of Delegation,
Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi**

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Mr. Chairman,

There is an undeniable link between economic, social progress and environmental sustainability and the conditions of international peace, security and stability that makes them possible. Likewise, the issues around the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

This was an essential part of the forethought that the Treaty negotiators showed and, however, it is not unfair to say that the debate on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the disarmament and non-proliferation have not received the same level of treatment that other clauses of the Treaty.

Consolidating and strengthening the work by so many State Parties to the Treaty is a joint responsibility, as well as that of facilitating the benefits of the atom for development through the nuclear applications in the fields of energy production, health, agriculture, water management and so many other fields that are essential for sustainable development.

The next Review Conference will be a new opportunity to reflect with determination on the link that I have already mentioned and to achieve concrete decisions to strengthen the implementation of Article IV so that all States parties can have access to research, production and use of nuclear energy, and can sustain the widest international exchange on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We cannot forget that what makes the current activities possible in the field of nuclear energy, nuclear medicine and nuclear technology applications in diverse modalities would not be possible if we did not have the juridical basis and the guarantees created by the NPT through the safeguards system administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We believe it is not an exaggeration to say that no activity involving the use of radioactive sources and/or nuclear materials, or the promotion of nuclear energy would be possible or permissible in the absence of the NPT.

All countries, both NWS and NNWS, benefit from nuclear developments and can offer ideas to strengthen the system that makes them possible. All regions in the globe have a body of experts with a treasure-trove of experience and knowledge that has value, who observe and realize every day how cooperation on peaceful uses works and where are the instances that could be strengthened and improved. Argentina believes that it is indispensable that this community of experts be offered a better seat at the NPT table.

In spite of the undeniable impact of the Fukushima-Daiichi accident, we can see that the national nuclear programs are improving their level of ambition, in every region, including newcomer countries to nuclear energy production. There are a number of new undertakings.

The debate on global warming and climate change has also spurred a new level of interest and research devoted to the nuclear option, because of its advantages in terms of CO2 emissions and others.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2030 Agenda is a multilateral platform that favors economic, social and environmental development – the three aspects of sustainable development- through a wide range of non-prescriptive agreed goals. A new element in this Development Agenda is that it includes peace and security, since it explicitly includes among its objectives the building of more peaceful societies. The points of contact between the NPT and the Sustainable Development Agenda are not limited to the energy aspects and the targets to achieve universal access to reliable, sustainable, modern and affordable energy services under SDG7. Also regarding SDG16, regarding the promotion of fair, peaceful and inclusive societies, and under SDG4 on education and in particular target 4.7 that require education necessary to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, among other values. We can recall that the promotion of education for disarmament was one of the issues discussed in the last Review Conference in 2015, and the SDG4.7 can contribute to establishing objective criteria.

Mr. Chairman,

Argentina welcomes the multiplication of efforts and initiatives for the transversalization of the gender perspective in this forum.

The need for a gender perspective, including in the fields of peace and security, was universally acknowledged already in 1995 by the Beijing Platform of Action. It has been included as an official policy in the UN system since 1997, and strengthened by the Strategy for gender parity that the UNSG launched in 2017. It is also an active and important part of the UNSC agenda since the adoption of resolution 1325 in 2000. Yet, in the nuclear field, progress has been slow. The NPT review process has not really addressed the gender perspective nor the role that men and women in equality need to play in disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The recent resolutions by the UNGA on Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, the General Recommendation Nr 30 by CEDAW, on conflict prevention and conflict and post-conflict situations of 2013 and the very national policies we are all implementing on this field can be our guide to incorporate a gender perspective in this Review process substantially. Argentina is open to ideas that can generate a concrete and positive impact and expects this issue to be among the outcomes of the Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear safety is an essential component of development for nuclear energy and applications that each of our societies and the international community demand.

We have faced important challenges, most recently the Fukushima-Daiichi accident, that led to the adoption of major operative and normative improvements. Most of the countries and many regions, including the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulators, conducted comprehensive stress test that led to concrete measures to strengthen nuclear safety on the basis of the lessons learned.

The Diplomatic Conference of February 2015 to consider a proposal to amend the Convention on Nuclear Safety was a clear step forward in this regard. The unanimous adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety succeeded in finding a consensus formula to strengthen the Convention through strong commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

In the conviction of the importance of working cooperatively on the different available spaces that exist today in the international arena with a common objective, Argentina coordinates with Japan an effort for dialogue and understanding between Nuclear Customers and Suppliers established within IFNEC, the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation. This group works to identify questions of relevance for both in order to ensure a wider dissemination of nuclear technology for nuclear energy, while prioritizing security and safety, human resources training and capacity building, financial aspects as well as public acceptance and transparency.

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation is convinced that we need to make a profound reassessment of the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the context of the review of the implementation of the Treaty in 2020.

It would be especially valuable, in this last stretch before 2020, for all of us who work on and benefit from peaceful uses of nuclear energy to analyses jointly, at the regional and sub-regional meetings, the ways to strengthen the links between the NPT

and civil nuclear activity. We are thinking of operators, the nuclear industry, regulators, agencies and promotion and research institutions, who are rarely seen in these Conferences, yet are ultimately the ones who are actually bringing life to the nuclear activities. As president of the Conference in 2020, it is my intention to call for a series of meetings of this kind, with a wide participation, where we can approach practical, action-oriented ways to strengthen the access to the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear science and nuclear technology.

We should be able to achieve tangible, concrete commitments and results for the nuclear activity such as we seek to reach for disarmament and non-proliferation in 2020.

For most of the countries gathered here today, cooperation and development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its scientific and technological application are not a secondary part of this Treaty, but one of the main concrete benefits that goes hand in hand with the implementation of the NPT and the IAEA safeguards system.

Peaceful uses and NPT are two sides of the same coin and must be part of the Review and Re-Commitment Conference of 2020.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.