

Cluster II (*Nonproliferation*)

Mr. Chairman,

Given the mutually reinforcing nature of the three pillars of the NPT, the Republic of Korea firmly believes that ensuring full compliance with non-proliferation obligations is vital for sustaining and reinforcing the credibility and integrity of the NPT regime.

(Safeguards implementation and export control)

In this regard, the application of safeguards under Article III of the NPT remains uniquely important. Credible assurances that States are honoring their treaty obligations to use nuclear material only for peaceful purposes not only facilitate robust international nuclear cooperation foreseen by Article IV but also enhance international peace and security.

The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the IAEA as the sole competent authority for verifying compliance with safeguards-related obligations assumed under the NPT through impartial implementation of a non-discriminatory system of objective and technical safeguards. In our view, it is essential to ensure that the IAEA is able to fulfill its legal obligations and maintain the highest levels of professionalism. This would require both the sustained support of its Member States and the best efforts of the Secretariat.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the IAEA's efforts to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency, including the Modernization of Safeguards Information Technology project (MOSAIC) and the refinement of the State-level Concept (SLC) and implementation of State-level approaches (SLAs). The Republic of Korea introduced an

updated SLA in 2015 and is ready to share its experiences with a view to promoting the efficient utilization of the Agency's safeguards resources.

The Additional Protocol is also a crucial instrument that provides credible assurance that the State parties are living up to their non-proliferation commitments and thereby realizing and upholding the NPT goals. In this respect, we welcome Serbia and Liberia joining the Additional Protocol since the last PrepCom in 2018. We call on the 16 countries yet waiting for ratification to bring the Additional Protocol into force as early as possible.

In addition to IAEA safeguards, export control regimes including the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) are important mechanism for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. Having served as chair of the both regimes for the 2016-2017 terms, the Republic of Korea remains steadfast in its support for an effective and transparent export control regime.

(Regional Issues)

Mr. Chairman,

Our efforts to strengthen the nonproliferation regime should also entail appropriate responses to specific issues of non-compliance.

The DPRK is the only country to develop a nuclear weapons program within the NPT regime and announce its withdrawal from both IAEA safeguards and the NPT. There are on-going diplomatic efforts to achieve complete denuclearization and establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, and we look forward to the continued support

and encouragement from the international community for our efforts towards a peaceful and diplomatic solution. We also urge the DPRK to abide by its reaffirmed commitment to complete denuclearization and continue to work closely with relevant partners in order to bring substantial and tangible outcomes.

The Republic of Korea also attaches great importance to the peaceful resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue and supports all diplomatic efforts to this end. We welcome Iran's continued implementation of its obligation under the JCPOA and its provisional implementation of the Additional Protocol. We also note with satisfaction that the IAEA continues to conduct complementary accesses and is evaluating Iran's declarations in accordance with the JCPOA.

We remain concerned that Syria continues to ignore the IAEA Board of Governor's conclusion of the country's non-compliance regarding its nuclear reactor in Dair Alzour. We call upon Syria to fully cooperate with the Agency and address unresolved issues without further delay.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea believes that effectively verifiable nuclear-weapon-free-zones (NWFZs) play an important role in promoting non-proliferation and enhancing regional and international peace and stability. In this regard, we have consistently supported the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in the Middle East and the convening of a conference to this end. Regrettably, the conference envisioned by the 2010 NPT Review Conference has not been convened to date.

We look forward to the early convening of the conference, to be

attended by all States of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them, and hopes that all parties concerned show political will and sincerity for the realization of the objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

As a steadfast supporter for international non-proliferation regime, my delegation stands ready to work with all the Parties to attain a successful outcome of this session as well as 2020 Review Conference.

Thank you. /END/