United Kingdom Statement on Cluster 1: 4 November 2013

Several of the resolutions remaining to be voted on in this cluster contain references to the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

The UK shares the deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, as expressed by NPT States Parties at the 2010 Review Conference. The UK continues to attach the greatest importance to avoiding the use of nuclear weapons, and supports and participates in a range of efforts to increase international resilience to the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The UK stands by our commitments on disarmament and the undertakings set out in Article VI of the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime. The UK has a strong history on nuclear disarmament, and continues to strive towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons through the NPT and the Action Plan agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The UK strongly supports the step by step approach to nuclear disarmament which is wholly consistent with NPT objectives, and agreed by all NPT States Parties at successive NPT Review Conferences and in the 2010 Action Plan.

The UK is concerned that some efforts under the humanitarian consequences heading appear increasingly aimed at a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the possession of nuclear weapons. The UK believes that any attempts to establish a new conference or body to discuss such approaches risk undermining the full implementation of all three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which should remain our priority.

The UK is determined to continue to work with partners across the international community to control proliferation and to make progress on multilateral nuclear disarmament, to build trust and confidence between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states, and to take tangible steps toward a safer and more stable world in which countries with nuclear weapons feel able to relinquish them.