Mr Chairman, New Zealand takes very seriously its responsibility to the international community to implement Security Council Resolution 1373 to address terrorism. New Zealand is therefore working to accede to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and expects to do so shortly. We support the strengthening of that Convention to cover domestic use, storage and transport.

Mr Chairman, it is a truism that the best way to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of terrorists is to work for their total elimination. States cannot hope to limit proliferation of these weapons while seeking to retain them indefinitely themselves. Commitment to nuclear disarmament is therefore the bedrock upon which we can build efforts to combat nuclear terrorism. In this post-September 11 world, those efforts are crucial, and we welcome the plan of action against nuclear terrorism developed by the IAEA.

We welcome the IAEA’s efforts to combat illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material, and help states strengthen their regulatory control over such materials.

New Zealand considers that nuclear export controls are a legitimate, necessary and desirable means of implementing states parties obligations under Articles I, II and III of the NPT. Such controls are intended to provide an environment of confidence for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We consider that for any transfer of source or special fissionable material to any non-nuclear weapon state, Article III safeguards should apply. For New Zealand, this means the recipient state should have a Model Additional Protocol in place. All transfers of nuclear material or technology should be in conformity with Articles I, II, III and IV of the NPT.

Mr Chairman, New Zealand has chosen not to develop nuclear energy and we do not recognise a link between nuclear energy and sustainable development. While we recognise the right of other states to choose nuclear power, this choice can have implications for the safety and security of other states.
In this respect I want to raise the issue of the **maritime transport of nuclear materials**, which is of concern to New Zealand, as well as to other coastal states. New Zealand calls for:

- strengthened and improved safety standards
- comprehensive emergency response plans
- effective liability arrangements that cover, inter alia, economic loss in the event of an incident even where there is no release of radiation
- advance notification and consultation with coastal states

There is increasing concern about nuclear shipments from around the globe. We recall the recommendations of last year’s Ninth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9), and the resolution in the General Conference of the IAEA last September: IAEA GC 45/Res 10 (B). In our own region, Pacific Forum leaders last year called for their concerns over the transport of nuclear materials to be “constructively and vigorously pursued”. Pacific Islands Forum member states have held discussions with representatives of France, Japan and the United Kingdom on the subject of liability with respect to nuclear shipments. We welcome these ongoing and constructive talks.

New Zealand looks forward to working with other interested states to take this issue forward at the next General Conference of the IAEA in September. We also welcome the planned Conference on Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials, to be convened by the IAEA in June 2003. As agreed at the recent Technical Programme Committee Meeting in Vienna, we look forward to discussing all issues relevant to transport of radioactive materials at that time, including liability and prior notification and consultation.

Thank you.