Cluster 3 issue: peaceful use of nuclear energy

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of GUAM countries.

GUAM recognizes the essential role which technology plays in development and believes that its transfer for the peaceful use of nuclear energy is in the interests of all states, both developing and developed and can contribute to wider goals of global prosperity and stability.

At the same time implementation of Article IV of the Treaty with respect to peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be consistent with other elements of the Treaty, including those relevant to non-proliferation. Inalienable right to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should not be used to take advantage of this provision of the Treaty to develop clandestine nuclear weapons programmes.

Among international organizations, the IAEA remains principal vehicle for the transfer of technology foreseen in Article IV of the Treaty. We strongly support the IAEA’s work in developing programmes that improve the technological, scientific and regulatory capabilities of States Parties to the NPT and recognize great value and importance of the IAEA’s Technical Cooperation for international development. We urge the IAEA to continue its efforts to ensure that its Technical Cooperation Programme focuses on the major development needs and challenges of its Member States.

I would like to express our satisfaction with the achieved level of the technical collaboration between the GUAM Countries and the Agency within the IAEA’s Technical Cooperation Programme.

Mr. Chairman,

We acknowledge the advantages of using nuclear power with a view of its effectiveness in helping to meet growing global energy needs and supporting the sustainable development. Increasing global demand for energy and concerns over climate change predict potential expansion of the use of nuclear energy. Since access to reliable and adequate sources of energy is essential for development, it may attract new countries to become nuclear energy customers and to build new nuclear power plants.

However, we would like to stress that achievements in these spheres could only be effective if combined with the significant efforts in maintaining and strengthening the safe operation of NPPs, as well as safe decommissioning, and safely spent fuel
and radioactive waste management. With this regard transfer of sensitive technologies and growing demand of nuclear fuel will need the basis to prevent potential proliferation risks of further spread of sensitive nuclear technology, such as uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing. GUAM countries continue to attach great importance to strengthening international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management and welcomes efforts undertaken to this effect.

We appreciate the IAEA’s activities aimed at building enhanced partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as non-traditional partners with a view to enhance effectiveness of its assistance and to attract additional resources.

On the 26th April we marked the 21 anniversary of Chornobyl tragedy. Taking this opportunity I would like to express our gratitude to the IAEA and all states for their valuable assistance in mitigating consequences of this world’s largest nuclear disaster. We hope that this cooperation will continue in future.

GUAM countries are ready to continue cooperation in the framework of the Agency and beyond to promote safe and secure application of the nuclear energy throughout the world.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.