Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

11 May 2009

Specific Issue:
Other provisions of the Treaty, including Article X

Mr. Chair,

A fundamental strength of the NPT is its near universality. Norway fully recognizes the provisions of Article X. Yet it is clear that a withdrawal would seriously challenge the NPT and undermine our collective security, and should therefore be addressed by the UN Security Council.

My delegation agrees that the costs of leaving the NPT should be high. It goes without saying that rights under the NPT, such as peaceful nuclear cooperation, including technical assistance from the IAEA, would have to be suspended.

Much focus has been devoted to the introduction of disincentives from pulling out of the NPT. Norway believes we also need to continuously look for ways to strengthen the positive incentives of remaining within the NPT.

First, we must reaffirm the viability and authority of the NPT through a positive and forward looking outcome of the 2010 Review Conference.

Second, we must enhance peaceful cooperation on all dimensions of nuclear applications. That means strengthening the capacity of the IAEA to deliver technical cooperation and responding to development needs.

Third, we should explore ways to further deepen the security benefits of the NPT, through for instance codifying security assurances within the context of the NPT.

(Check against delivery)
Fourth, we must further strengthen the NPT Review Cycle, keeping in mind that a strengthened Review Cycle was part of the 1995 package to extend the NPT indefinitely. My delegation notes with great interest the different proposals towards this end. It would make sense that the NPT follows other disarmament and non-proliferation treaties in holding annual meetings of States Parties. Meetings of States Parties should also be convened if required by special circumstances. My delegation believes that we could draw from the experience of the BTWC in setting up a programme of work for the coming Review Cycle addressing all three pillars of the Treaty. We should also consider establishing a support unit, which should work closely with the UN family, including the IAEA.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.