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Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Working paper submitted by China

1. The peaceful use of nuclear energy is the inalienable right of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Effective measures to enhance the peaceful use of nuclear energy will be conducive to the full attainment of the objectives of the Treaty and to advancement of the causes of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

2. Promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and fostering international cooperation in that area are key objectives identified in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The developed countries and IAEA should step up their assistance to developing countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the actual needs of those countries.

3. Promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons are complementary goals. Efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons should not undermine the legitimate rights of countries, in particular the developing countries, to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

4. Maintaining a sound balance between the two main areas of IAEA activities, safeguards and international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, will ensure that member States actively support and participate in the Agency’s activities. The resources necessary for activities by IAEA to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technical cooperation should be assured. All IAEA member States should pay their contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time.

5. Nuclear safety is the lifeblood for the development of nuclear power and the application of nuclear technology. The international community should make a concerted effort to assimilate the lessons learned from nuclear accidents, continue to strengthen nuclear safety measures and actively promote the safe development of nuclear energy.

6. Strengthening nuclear security is crucial to the sustainable development of nuclear energy. All countries have the responsibility to put in place physical
protection measures to secure the nuclear material and nuclear facilities within their territory. Concerted efforts must be made to reinforce the existing international legal framework for nuclear safety and to expand international cooperation in this area. IAEA should continue to play a leading role in the field of nuclear safety.

7. The parties concerned should pursue constructive discussions on the establishment of a multilateral nuclear fuel supply system, with a view to reaching a solution acceptable to all. IAEA can also play an active role in that undertaking.