Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

First Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
Vienna, 30 April – 11 May, 2012

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you Mr. Chairman on your election to chair this first Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Let me wish success to you and express my delegation’s strong believe that under your able leadership this First Preparatory Committee will successfully achieve its objectives. You may count, Mr. Chairman, on the co-operation and full support of my delegation.

Lithuania associates itself with the statement made by the European Union and wishes to underline some matters of particular importance to my country.

Mr. Chairman,

The successfully concluded NPT Review Conference in 2010 and the Conclusions and Recommendations adopted provide a good starting point for the next Review Cycle ahead of us. Lithuania is working actively to implement in a balanced manner
the forward-looking action plan set out in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Today, when Non-Proliferation Treaty is more important than ever, we are facing new nuclear dangers such as clandestine proliferation, threats emanating from nuclear terrorism, withdrawal from the NPT. To tackle new challenges the nuclear non-proliferation regime needs to be strengthened based on progress in all three mutually reinforcing pillars of the NPT – disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Lithuania welcomes the agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and its successful ongoing implementation, as well as the very successful Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul that lay a firm background for intensified international cooperation in strengthening the efforts to counter nuclear security threats worldwide. Lithuania has participated at this year’s Nuclear Security Summit for the first time and subscribed fully to the summit’s communique. We will remain a staunch supporter of global efforts in countering nuclear security threats. The recently established Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence in Medininkai, Lithuania would be a good platform in attaining these goals.

Lithuania has been playing an active role in Proliferation Security Initiative and supports the principles of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, which give a new impetus for enhanced cooperation to prevent illegal transfers of nuclear material and equipment. In this regard, multilateral export control regimes are important tools. Therefore, efforts aimed at strengthening and extending the control regime which now includes all the EU states comprising a single market to all export control regimes to be useful and necessary.
Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate our enduring commitment to the goal of general and complete disarmament and the world free of nuclear weapons. Until we reach this goal effective measures related to nuclear arms control and further disarmament, especially reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons remain of utmost importance. The ratification of the CTBT by all countries is essential, especially by the Annex 2 States, for it to enter into force, in addition we must put extra efforts for the negotiations on a FMCT Treaty to start without further delay.

Lithuania strongly supports the efforts of the IAEA to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency’s safeguards system based on assessment of the correctness and completeness of the State’s declarations to the IAEA concerning nuclear material and nuclear-related activities. We consider that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol currently represents the verification standard which needs to be further strengthened, universalized and applied as a condition for nuclear material and technology supply.

We highly commend the states that have signed and ratified the Additional Protocols. Indeed, universalization of the Additional Protocol would not only reinforce non-proliferation regime, but also considerably increase confidence for international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and contribute to enhancing global security. Therefore, Lithuania encourages all States especially the ones currently operating nuclear power plants or planning to construct them in the future to undertake necessary steps to bring the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement into force but most importantly to sign, ratify and implement the Additional Protocol.
We underline the key role that the IAEA plays in assisting Member States to develop and implement national and regional nuclear security frameworks. We call on countries which have not done so to adhere to and fully implement international instruments, such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities as well as the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. We note with satisfaction a positive trend in participation in those instruments.

Mr. Chairman,

Lithuania would like to stress a primary role that the IAEA plays in reviewing and assessing safety and security of emerging nuclear sites as well as providing assessment of readiness of the national nuclear infrastructure, maturity of the national regulatory system, safety culture, etc. We encourage countries, to make use of the full range of Agency’s services.

We fully adhere to the principle that safety is a precondition for the responsible and sustainable use of nuclear technology and stands ready to share our experience in the field of nuclear safety, safeguards application, safe waste management and radiation protection.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, we welcome the contribution of civil society in promoting the principles and objectives of the NPT.

I thank you.