STATEMENT BY H.E. AMB. UKUR K. YATANI

LEADER OF DELEGATION OF KENYA

AT THE FIRST SESSION OF

THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE
-CLUSTER 3 ISSUES ON PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

WEDNESDAY, 9TH MAY 2012
Mr. Chairman,

1. Kenya is taking the floor for the first time and we would like to begin by congratulating you not only for your election to preside over the First Preparatory Committee of the 2015 Review Conference but also for the high level of professionalism you have shown during the past few days. We assure you and your Bureau of our fullest support.

We associate ourselves fully with the statement of the Non-aligned Movement Parties to the NPT delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Before addressing the issues under this cluster, allow me to briefly mention that in our view, the NPT remains the only instrument for achieving international peace and security based on the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, the final document agreed in 2000 and the Action plan agreed upon at the 2010 Review Conference. Kenya is convinced that it is only through total elimination of nuclear weapons that we can guarantee against the use or threat of nuclear weapons.

We emphasize therefore that the 2015 Review Conference must place equal emphasis on the three pillars of the NPT regime, namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of energy. Of these three, the most important is nuclear disarmament. In our considered opinion, the moral, legal and military arguments are compelling and therefore urge for conclusion of legally binding security assurances against the use of nuclear weapons. We also look forward to an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

3. Kenya is convinced that all existing nuclear disputes can be resolved through diplomacy and within the multilateral framework. We therefore call on both sides of the divide to engage in a sincere dialogue in order to arrive at a meaningful arrangement.
4. With regard to peaceful uses of energy, we reiterate the position stated by the African Union leaders when they adopted the Plan of Action on Peaceful Uses of Energy. The leaders underscored the inalienable right of African States to the free access to nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes and sustainable development. This right is stipulated under Article IV of the NPT. Kenya welcomes the entry into force in July 2009 of the African Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone Treaty namely the Treaty of Pelindaba. The treaty provides a framework for African member states who may opt to develop nuclear energy for their sustainable development to do so in a responsible manner.

5. In view of the fore-mentioned, Kenya urges the international community to safeguard this right and to facilitate meaningful cooperation to enable all states parties, in conformity with their international obligations to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Kenya commends the IAEA for the role it continues to play under its technical cooperation programme in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Under the programme, the Agency provides a platform not only for sharing of knowledge and expertise to promote, inter alia, sustainable development but also in building capacity for a critical mass in developing countries in the field of nuclear science. For African member states Kenya included, the programme focuses on human health, water resources management, agricultural development, and environmental management.

7. With regard to sustainable energy development, Kenya is among an increasing number of developing member states investing in the development of Nuclear power. We therefore welcome the assurance given by the representative of the IAEA in his statement delivered during the first day of this Prepcom to the effect that member states who opt to add nuclear power to their energy mix can count on the assistance of the Agency at every stage.
8. However, for the IAEA to effectively continue promoting the peaceful uses of the atoms of peace and to provide assistance to Member States to develop appropriate regulatory infrastructure framework, meaningful steps need to be taken towards enhancing the resources of the Technical Cooperation Fund. This would include actions that are aimed at increasing the Fund in a manner that matches the overall increase in the Agency’s regular budget.

9. Kenya expresses appreciation to the Member States that continue to support the IAEA projects and welcomes the announcement by the United States that it is stepping up support to the Peaceful Uses Initiative. Kenya would like to encourage other Member States in a position to do so to provide additional funds to the initiative.

10. In conclusion Mr. Chairman, permit me to reiterate the importance of universality of the NPT and to appeal to those countries that have not yet done so to join the Treaty. At the same time, we hope that the 2015 Review Conference will among other issues of the NPT regime address itself to the issue of withdrawal from the Treaty. Attempts by States to conclude bilateral agreements on nuclear energy outside the framework of the NPT must be discouraged as they can only undermine the integrity of the Treaty.

I thank you.