Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine associates itself with the statement made by the European Union. In national capacity we would like to add few points on this agenda item.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty recognizes in Article IV the inalienable right of the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the NPT. We would like to underline that nothing in the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting this right.

Ukraine underscores the importance of peaceful nuclear technology for sustainable socio-economic development of nations, provided that nuclear activities of states are subject to full scope IAEA safeguards. Strong efforts should be made to ensure that states use nuclear energy in a way that reduces proliferation risks and with the highest international standards for safeguards, security and safety.

In that context, we would like to stress the value and importance of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, which plays an important role in the development of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We acknowledge the wide use of nuclear technology in the areas of health, industry, agriculture, water treatment and environmental protection. It is important to ensure that the IAEA TC Programme is adequately and predictably financed.

Emerging and expanding nuclear power programmes would be short-lived without proper attention to safety and security. We strongly support the Agency’s activities aimed at improving nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety worldwide. It is important to continue international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear security, safe waste management and radiological protection. We call upon states that have not yet done so to accede to all relevant IAEA conventions and international instruments as soon as possible and to implement them efficiently.

Ukraine, possessing considerable scientific potential in the area of nuclear technologies and applications and having the long-term plans on development of nuclear energy, supports the Agency’s role in international projects on innovative and improved nuclear reactors and fuel cycles. Ensuring nuclear fuel supply is a very complex and multi-dimensional concept with many technical, legal, commercial and economic implications. We remain convinced of the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, in which assurance mechanisms do not distort the existing nuclear market and address fully the right of states to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We acknowledge that several existing initiatives, including the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank, can provide necessary back-up mechanisms to interested countries and facilitate lasting multilateral solutions for the expanding need for nuclear fuel and nuclear fuel services while minimizing the risk of proliferation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.