2013 session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster III Specific Issue Statement by Ms Alison Edye
Australian Delegation
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Mr Chairman,

Australia continues to support the sovereign right, under Article X, of States party to withdraw from the NPT. However, if a State party withdraws, it is crucial that we have mechanisms in place to ensure that nuclear material, equipment and technology supplied for peaceful purposes on the basis of a State’s NPT membership is not subsequently diverted to military activities. Put simply, withdrawal from the Treaty must not become a means to avoid the responsibilities and obligations incurred under the Treaty prior to withdrawal.

Australia therefore supports ongoing efforts to develop balanced, practical measures to prevent abuse of the NPT’s withdrawal provisions. Such abuse would undermine the integrity of the Treaty and may threaten international peace and security. As we begin to look to the 2015 Review Conference, Australia encourages States party to work together on this issue to find collective solutions that balance the rights and responsibilities that come with NPT membership.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.