STATEMENT BY H.E. Ms. KATEŘINA SEQUENSOVÁ
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC TO THE UN OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENÈVA

Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Cluster III
Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

We support the right of every country to add nuclear power to its energy mix. Nevertheless the use of nuclear energy must be done in a responsible way. This means adhering to the highest safety and security standards and ensuring that nuclear material is not diverted from peaceful to military purposes.

Demand for the IAEA’s services in all three areas - safety, security and safeguards - has grown enormously in the past two decades and will continue to increase since more and more countries are considering the use of nuclear energy. Having this in mind, it is in the interest of the Czech Republic to be actively involved in an international cooperation, share our experiences in peaceful use of nuclear energy and thereby contribute to a positive development in this regard.

The Czech Republic belongs to strong supporters of information and knowledge sharing through the Technical Cooperation Program. The Czech Republic earmarked more than 6 million CZK (approx. 300 000 USD) for the financial support of the Technical Cooperation Program in 2012. Along with other advanced countries the Czech Republic supports the IAEA's attempt to provide technical support to member states. In 2012 various organizations in the Czech Republic provided 11 longterm fellowships for foreign experts and 24 shortterm scientific visits. Highly appreciated are especially courses focused on advanced nuclear technologies in medicine and radiation protection.

An integral part of the Czech Republic's international technical cooperation is also training of foreign students at a training reactor operated by the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague. There is long term cooperation programme with Slovakia, Germany and Austria. Education for foreign students is organized within the scope of European education network ENEN and there are also particular courses organized in cooperation with the IAEA.

The Czech Republic has also highly developed program and set of laws for monitoring and limitation of medical exposure. This is associated with the fact that the medical procedures constitute one fifth of the population exposure in our country and in the future this number is likely to increase.

In the Czech Republic there is much attention paid to radon as well. We have introduced a so called Radon Action Program in accordance with the European Union, with the objective of contributing, through well-thought out and co-ordinated measures, to the reduction in the number of deaths from lung cancer as a result of the increased exposure to radon and its daughter products. Our studies show that every year more than 5000 people die of lung cancer in the Czech Republic and up to 900 of these deaths may be caused by radon in homes. This is admittedly an alarming number and this topic deserves worldwide much more attention than it is currently getting.

Mr. Chairman,

I'm very proud to say that the Czech Republic was one of the very first Non-nuclear weapons states which committed to provide support to the IAEA Member States Support Programs.
In the last ten years of duration of the Czech Support Program, the Czech Republic became involved in a number of active tasks. Today the Czech Republic is involved in 12 active tasks in cooperation with the Nuclear Power Plants Dukovany and Temelin, Mining – Milling Facility DIAMO and the Nuclear Research Institute in Řež.

The Czech Republic, in accordance with this program and in cooperation with the IAEA, organized the seventh training course of IAEA safeguards inspectors at Dukovany NPP, facilitated participation of the Central analytical laboratory of NRI Řež in the process of assessment and control of quality of services provided for IAEA networks of world laboratories in the area of nuclear materials analyses, participation of Dukovany NPP in the program of testing new IAEA surveillance systems developed for verification of nuclear materials in the interim spent fuel storage facilities and intensively participated in the development of the new IAEA safeguards system for final disposals of spent fuel.

Many countries make use of nuclear energy in various projects, activities and fields. We tried to mention at least some of them relevant for our country in our statement and we would like to stress once again that all these activities have to be done in compliance with commitments of the treaty.

Thank you for your attention.