Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Our statement focuses on Action 50, 56 and 60 of the 2010 Action Plan.

Further to our earlier statement, the delegation of Ghana wishes to re-emphasize the importance of all the three pillars of the NPT. We note with satisfaction the progress made by this Treaty on peaceful uses, with the support of the IAEA. We however wish to make a few observations for future development. First of all, Ghana appreciates the enormous support offered to it and other developing State parties through the Technical Cooperation programmes, and other initiatives such as the Peaceful Uses Initiative, this notwithstanding, we and other countries in Africa continue to remain highly underdeveloped in our nuclear capabilities. In our view much more work therefore needs to be done.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that areas that require the application of nuclear technology are very diverse and for that matter research works in this field must attract more attention and also serve as one of the main avenues of support to developing State parties. The National Nuclear Research Institute of Ghana is ready to partner any State party in that regard. A lot more possible outcomes through joint research works in this field can contribute greatly to poverty reduction and disease eradication in Africa and elsewhere. The NPT’s contribution to the post MDG agenda must stand out.

Secondly, we are calling for much more progress through private sector investments in nuclear energy generation, either in partnership or in any other form such as build own
and operate or build, operate and transfer arrangement in the territories of developing State parties. The economies of many African countries including Ghana are expanding very rapidly, in fact, Ghana’s economy was one of the fastest growing in the world in the year 2011, and this calls for a commensurate growth in energy supply in that region.

In addition to our own energy needs, the government of Ghana has also committed itself to a policy which seeks to increase the export of energy to our neighbouring countries. Unreliable climate patterns and rising global petroleum prices have combined to frustrate our efforts in energy generation in recent years. Our local industries, as well as, those of our neighbouring countries which depend on our energy sources have been experiencing grave challenges in meeting their supply contracts and rising operating costs due to this development. We believe that any investments in nuclear energy in Ghana, and in any Sub Saharan African Country for that matter, will be mutually rewarding and contribute immensely to the realization of the objective of peaceful uses of nuclear technology due to the existing high potential.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, allow me to restate that, Ghana is seeking business partners for the peaceful application of nuclear technology. At the 57th General Conference of the IAEA, an exhibition will be mounted by Ghana to tell her story of achievements over the past 50 years in peaceful applications. We cordially invite all State parties which seek to establish bilateral investment pacts to visit our stand or make contact for initial talks.

Mr. Chairman, in this way, we believe that the potential for mutual gains is almost limitless.

I thank you.