Statement by the Republic of Lithuania – Cluster III

Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference
Geneva, 22 April – 3 May 2013

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Lithuania associates itself with the statement made by the European Union on the issue and wishes to briefly touch upon some issues of particular importance to my country.

Lithuania fully shares the view of the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the international community on the nexus between nuclear security and safety and welcomes the discussion that safety and security measures should be implemented in a coherent manner that can maximise the synergy between the two.

As it has been noted in the General statement, Lithuania stands committed to the NPT as the basis for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for those who choose to do so, reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all 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 Treaty.

Lithuania stands committed and invites the other states to ensuring the best safety and security standards by the States countries wishing to develop in a responsible way, their capacities in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The key role is being played by the IAEA in this regard and we underscore the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol as a universally accepted international verification standard.

Lithuania fully supports the key role played by the IAEA in the field of nuclear safety and the importance of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted at the IAEA General Conference in 2011. In light of the Fukushima accident, the EU Member States have undertaken, as a matter of priority, a review of the safety of all nuclear power plants within the European Union on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"). The stress tests were overseen by independent national regulatory authorities and the reports on the outcomes and subsequent measures were made public.

Lithuania would like to stress a key role that the IAEA plays in reviewing and assessing safety and security of emerging nuclear sites as well as providing assessment of readiness of the national nuclear infrastructure, maturity of the national regulatory system, safety culture, etc. We encourage all States, the newcomers to the IAEA in particular, to make use of the full range of Agency services.

We also encourage other countries to perform risk and safety assessments for nuclear power plants in operation and under constructions in cooperation with the IAEA, taking into
account the review of the safety of all European Union nuclear power plants on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"). We also invite IAEA Member States to host Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) and other peer review missions and to conduct national reviews on a regular basis.

Mr. Chairman,

Lithuania has actively contributed to the outcome of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summits, and is looking forward to the next summit, in The Hague, the Netherlands. We also fully support the key role of the IAEA, as reflected in the Nuclear Security Summit communiqués and are looking forward to the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security in July 2013.

I thank you.