Mr. Chair,

Norway fully recognizes the right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology enshrined in the NPT, based on the precondition of adherence to, and full compliance with, the non-proliferation and verification requirements of the NPT. Nuclear applications offer important contributions to human health, food production, water management and environmental monitoring, and of course to the energy sector. The IAEA plays an essential role in assisting developing countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

On this background, it is all the more important for States and international organizations to continue their efforts to enhance safety and security measures for all applications and activities. In this connection, we commend the work of the IAEA in developing instruments, guidelines, standards and codes of conduct as guidance for ensuring the highest levels of safety and security.

Norway welcomes the international community’s strengthened and continuing focus on nuclear safety after the March 2011 accident in Fukushima. We note the importance of the continued implementation of the Nuclear Safety Action Plan endorsed by the 2011 IAEA General Conference, and welcome the “Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety” hosted by the Government of Japan, in co-sponsorship with the IAEA, held in Fukushima Prefecture, in December 2012, and support its principal objective to contribute to strengthening nuclear safety worldwide.

Mr. Chair,

Norway supports the effective implementation of the work plan adopted by the 2010 Washington Nuclear Security Summit, and encourages participating States
to effectively follow up the outcomes of the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. We look forward to work closely with the Netherlands as host of the 2014 Summit.

Norway regards the IAEA as the key international organisation in the field of nuclear security and we look forward to the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, taking place in Vienna, 1–5 July 2013.

While the commitment to nuclear security has been confirmed at the highest political level, there is slow progress in adherence to the important 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Norway calls upon all states to sign and ratify the global conventions on nuclear security and to cooperate with the Agency in their implementation.

The IAEA plays an important role in nuclear safety and security – and it is the Member States’ responsibility to ensure that the Agency has the necessary resources. Norway has over the last four years contributed more than 6 million Euro to IAEAs work to strengthen Nuclear Security and safety in developing countries.

The concept of multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel cycles represents an important avenue to reconcile peaceful uses with global non-proliferation concerns. Norway therefore welcomes the decisions made by the IAEA related to assurances of supply, including not least the establishment of the IAEA’s own LEU bank. Another way to accommodate non-proliferation concerns while pursuing peaceful nuclear applications is by minimising the use of highly enriched uranium. In the production of isotopes and in research reactors, it has been demonstrated in a great number of cases that conversion to low enriched uranium is possible both technically and financially. Norway encourages the IAEA to support voluntary conversion projects.
Mr Chair,

A sustainable application of Article IV requires a broad partnership, both between countries and by finding solutions that also accommodate disarmament and non-proliferation concerns. A strengthened IAEA should continue to be at the centre of our efforts.

Finally, as a member of Vienna Group of 10, Norway would also like to highlight the three working papers submitted by the Group relating to cluster III, on the topics Peaceful Uses, Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Security.

Thank you for your attention.