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Statement
by the delegation of Ukraine to the 2nd Session of the PrepCom for the 2015
NPT Review Conference

Cluster 3

Mr. Chairman,

Article IV of the NPT declares the right of states to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II.

We would like to underline the importance of peaceful nuclear technology for the sustainable socio-economic development of all nations. Strong efforts should be made to ensure that states use nuclear energy in a way that reduces proliferation risks and with the highest international standards for safeguards, safety and security.

Ukraine highly appreciates the efforts of the IAEA in this regard and the role of the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol in ensuring the conduct of nuclear activities in conformity with the NPT provisions. In our view, a combined application of these two instruments should become a new standard for the export of nuclear material, equipment and technology to the state. The majority of States Parties to the NPT has already taken advantage of this approach and we call upon all countries which have not done so to consider bringing their nuclear activity under the IAEA safeguards.

After the tragic events in Fukushima Ukraine has reviewed the safety of all its nuclear power plants on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"). According to the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted at the IAEA General Conference in 2011 the stress tests were conducted in all Ukrainian nuclear power plants in operation and partially in Chernobyl NPP, which has decommissioning status.
Ukraine has also a plan on further development of nuclear fuel cycle in strict adherence with the nuclear safety standards. According to its current Energy Strategy Ukraine is planning to build several new nuclear installations including a fuel fabrication plant for WWER-1000 reactors, research subcritical assembly and power reactors. In this regard we strongly support the work of the International Centre on uranium enrichment in Russian Federation as well as the initiative of the IAEA to establish the Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Kazakhstan and in other places. We believe that these initiatives would facilitate using of nuclear energy and minimizing the risk of proliferation.

It is very important to continue international cooperation in order to strengthen safeguards, nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear security and combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material. Ukraine highly appreciates the contribution of the IAEA as well as donor states (Finland, Sweden, USA and Japan) in the establishment of Ukrainian State Systems of Physical Protection, Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials. We also appreciate comprehensive assistance of other countries in the training of Ukrainian specialists.

At the end of my statement let me underline the consistency of Ukraine’s policy in the area of non-proliferation and nuclear security, which was once again confirmed last year by the removal of all direct use nuclear material from the territory of Ukraine in performance of the commitments taken during the 2010 Washington Nuclear Security Summit.

I thank you.