STATEMENT BY H.E. Ms. KATEŘINA SEQUENSOVÁ
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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 II
Mr Chairman,

Since this is the first time I am taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the important task as Chair and assure you of Czech Republic’s full support and cooperation in our collective efforts to strengthen the NPT. The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

The current review cycle offers a unique opportunity for all State Parties to renew and intensify their commitment to the NPT and look for further ways and means to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. The Czech Republic seeks a reasonable and balanced outcome of the 2015 Review Conference that would move us closer to the ultimate goals of the treaty. The nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy are for us as important as the total removal of nuclear weapons, thus all three pillars of the NPT should be paid the same attention.

In this regard, the Czech Republic puts emphasis especially on the IAEA’s Safeguards system. Our long-term effort is the global implementation of the Additional protocol and in this way further strengthening of the mutual trust in the international non-proliferation regime.

The Czech Republic considers the nuclear verification mechanisms to be a key component of the Safeguards system and therefore we decided in 2012 to support the Agency’s analytical capabilities through voluntary contribution of 50 thousand Euro. In our view, accurate and timely analysis of safeguards samples is essential for safeguards verification activities of the Agency inspectors while accomplishing their tasks in this respect.

Besides the safeguards activities, it is the nuclear security that The Czech Republic considers to be a crucial priority. Therefore, we have also contributed to the Nuclear Security Fund almost 500 000 USD. The Czech Republic also aligns itself fully with the new priorities set out by the Agency in the security area, particularly with those regarding the outreach and information exchange through databases, conferences, workshops and fellowships. In this respect, we would especially welcome greater convergence of the Illicit Trafficking Database and other databases and creation of a universal informative platform, as advised in the Nuclear Security Plan for 2010 to 2013.

As you may know the Czech Republic attended both meetings of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington and in Seoul. We appreciate adding the radiological security and the nuclear security-safety topics to the summit agenda, as they bring the nuclear security issues and the nuclear safety issues closer together. One of the most important commitments initiated at the NSS was to generally limit the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU). In this regard we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Czech Republic in the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative in co-operation with the United States
finalized the removal of all highly enriched uranium from its territory and thus has become an effectively HEU-free country.

The final shipment of 68kg of HEU from the Nuclear Research Institute in Řež to Russia was completed at the turn of March this year.

Another key component of this commitment is the conversion of the Czech research reactors from the use of nuclear weapons-usable HEU fuel to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel. This conversion was accomplished last year and all Czech research and training reactors are now fully converted and operating with LEU fuel.

Mr. Chairman,

To ensure a successful outcome of the 2015 Review Conference and to fulfill the Action Plan agreed in 2010, it is necessary for all State Parties to contribute to these ends. The Czech Republic stands ready to help other countries with the implementation of their non-proliferation commitments.

Thank you for your attention.