Mr. Chairman,

Since 1970, NPT has helped its States parties ensure the right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes with the obligation to refrain from manufacturing or otherwise acquiring nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. This compact has opened the way for nuclear power and other peaceful uses of nuclear energy to make a profound impact on socioeconomic development around the globe.

With nuclear energy having played a crucial role in Korea’s development, the Korean government continues to attach great importance to realizing the full potential of nuclear energy to advance peace and prosperity for all humankind. We take seriously our obligation to cooperate in contributing to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly in developing countries.

We appreciate that, with its unique mandate “to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world,” IAEA assumes an essential role as facilitator of international cooperation. With 2015 marking not only the next NPT Review Conference but also the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, IAEA’s efforts to build human and institutional capacity to safely utilize nuclear technologies in order to address local needs and global issues deserve our full support.
As we well know, IAEA’s technical cooperation (TC) program is the primary mechanism for delivering capacity-building services to its Member States and contributing to the objectives of Article IV of the NPT. Thus, 2010 Review Conference called upon States parties to make every effort and take practical steps to ensure that IAEA resources for technical cooperation activities are sufficient, assured and predictable. Recalling the goal to raise USD 100 million as extrabudgetary contributions to IAEA activities between 2010 and 2015 under ‘Peaceful Use Initiative’, we invite all States in a position to do so to contribute to this important tool for promoting both peace and development.

The Republic of Korea remains a strong supporter of the TC program in keeping with the Actions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. In 2012, Korea made USD 2.8 million available to support the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries in need through various vehicles under the ‘Peaceful Use Initiative’. As an advanced nuclear power country, we have also taken steps to share our experience and know-how with our partner countries in order to help ensure the successful launching of their nuclear power programs.

Particularly at a time when many States have to consider austerity measures, improving the overall quality and relevance of the TC program will remain a key factor in our efforts to ensure that the peaceful and safe use of nuclear applications will be available to those who desire them. We therefore underline our support for the ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of IAEA’s technical cooperation program.
Mr. Chairman,

Inherent in the promise of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is the responsibility to make certain that it remains a force for good in the world. As confirmed by the Conference in 2010, this responsibility entails commitments to and ongoing implementation of safeguards as well as appropriate and effective levels of safety and security. While the full confidence of the international community in the exclusively peaceful nature of a State’s nuclear program as established by IAEA through application of comprehensive safeguards is vital, it is equally important that all nuclear programs be operated in accordance with the highest levels of safety and security. Here too IAEA plays a central role in developing, disseminating and promoting the global acceptance and use of its safety standards and security guidelines.

Our goal should be to develop stable and sustainable global safety, security and nonproliferation regimes that duly take into account the inalienable right to peaceful uses. This is easier said than done, but we believe that this opportunity to review our commitments to the objectives of Article IV in conformity with the obligations outlined in Articles I, II and III is a step in the right direction, given the real world risks that threaten the sustainable development of nuclear energy.

The 2011 Fukushima Daiichi accident is perhaps the most dramatic reminder in recent years that the peaceful use of nuclear energy has global consequences. While each State has an individual responsibility, robust international cooperation is essential if we and our future generations are to continue to benefit from nuclear energy. In this regard, noting the progress made in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, we urge all States
parties to fully implement the agreed measures in a timely manner with a view to strengthening nuclear safety worldwide.

We take note that the factors that contributed to growing interest in nuclear power before the Fukushima Daiichi accident have not changed. The projected expansion of nuclear power may have slowed, but the trend does not appear to have been reversed. In any case, demands on all stages of the fuel cycle will follow suit. Korea believes that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle would help achieve NPT objectives and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy by providing back-up access to nuclear fuel. Supporting the progress made in multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle so far, we further stress the need to discuss the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including the back-end of the fuel cycle.

The management of spent fuel remains an unresolved challenge. Globally, total cumulative amount of spent fuel increases by thousands of tons per year. Like all nuclear nations, Korea is seriously facing a growing waste management problem. We are thus ready to share our experience and knowledge with other countries with a view to stimulating international collaboration in developing safe, economic, and timely solutions to high-level waste disposal and ensuring the continued viability of nuclear power.

Thank you for your attention. /END/