THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

CLUSTER 2 ISSUES STATEMENT

to the

THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, the United Kingdom would like to align itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of the European Union. I would also like to add some further remarks in a national capacity.

2. It is of course vital that the NPT remains fit for purpose in a world where we continue to face threats to international peace and security. The United Kingdom is committed to strengthening non-proliferation architecture, combating programmes of concern and building trust between neighbours, and we will continue to work actively to reduce the risk of non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The United Kingdom remains fully committed to a diplomatic solution that resolves the international community’s concerns regarding Iran’s nuclear programme. We welcome the Joint Plan of Action agreed between the E3+3 and Iran that took effect on 20 January 2014. However, further significant progress is needed in order to agree a long-term, comprehensive solution that fully reassures the international community of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme. We also welcome the Framework for Cooperation agreed between the IAEA and Iran in November 2013, and call on Iran to cooperate substantively with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding questions, particularly those related to possible military dimensions.

4. The United Kingdom condemns in the strongest possible terms the DPRK’s continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes in direct violation of UNSCRs 1718, 1874, 2087 and 2094. We deplore all the DPRK’s ongoing nuclear activities and urge the DPRK to refrain from any actions that may lead to further violations of UNSCRs and further destabilise the region. We echo the call for the DPRK to fulfil its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint
Statement of the Six-Party Talks, and to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

5. The United Kingdom will speak in detail about the Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the specific issue session tomorrow. However, I would like to note our commitment to the objective of a Middle East Zone, and our ongoing efforts to convene a Conference, based on arrangements agreed by the states of the region, as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

6. As called on in UNSCR 1887, the United Kingdom continues to urge non-NPT states to ratify the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states. We will continue to work to bring those states closer to the international non-proliferation mainstream, including through regular non-proliferation dialogues.

7. The United Kingdom continues to support UNSCR 1540. In December 2013, we submitted our Fourth Implementation Plan and first National Action Plan to the UN 1540 Committee. Under our 2013 Presidency of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, we also hosted an outreach event to non-reporting states, with two 1540 Committee Experts in London, and have funded UNODA to deliver two workshops in Senegal and Kenya. UNSCR 1540 continues to be as relevant now in its tenth anniversary year as ever. We believe that states parties should actively consider what more we can do to implement UNSCR 1540, including within the context of the NPT, and the United Kingdom stands ready to assist states in its implementation.

8. We support wider efforts on nuclear security, and welcome the outcomes from the recent Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague. At the Summit, we pledged to host an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service Mission in 2015-16; to contribute £3.4 million to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund in 2014; and to continue
our Global Threat Reduction Programme of financial and expert assistance for nuclear and radiological security improvements overseas. We also presented out multinational gift basket in nuclear information security to the Nuclear Security Summit which attracted 35 signatories. We applaud the efforts of the Dutch Government in hosting the Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The United Kingdom is strongly committed to an effective and efficient safeguards regime. We believe that a comprehensive safeguards agreement plus an Additional Protocol should be the universal verification norm, and are pleased to see further progress since the last PrepCom. We welcome entry into force of Additional Protocols for Antigua & Barbuda, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Vanuatu, signature of an Additional Protocol by Burma and Guinea-Bissau and the Board of Governor’s approval of an Additional Protocol for Laos and St Kitts and Nevis. We call on all States which have not yet done so to sign and bring into force the Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

10. Finally, the United Kingdom fully supports and encourages the IAEA in its efforts to implement safeguards based on the State Level Concept. We believe the State Level Concept makes greater use of the IAEA’s ability to consider the State as a whole, and uses objective State factors to draw up a State-level Safeguards Approach for a State. This makes best use of limited resources whilst strengthening effectiveness. We are also pleased to have been able to provide 400,000 Euros this year towards the new Nuclear Materials Laboratory of the IAEA’s Safeguards Analytical Laboratory, bringing the total United Kingdom contribution to 1.4 million Euros.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.