CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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at

Third session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT Cluster III and Article X issues

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Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. First of all I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your tireless efforts in leading us through all caveats of this meeting. Let me assure you of full cooperation of my country’s delegation in order to achieve expeditiously a consensus on those issues that are uniting us all. While fully subscribing to the EU Statements, I would like now to touch upon some items that have special importance for us nationally.

2. I would like to emphasize that the Czech Republic acknowledges the indisputable right of every country for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Having developed an advanced peaceful nuclear programme, we understand the criticality of adherence to all safety and security standards. We are committed to the promotion of the safety culture at the international level. I believe that my country sets a great example in this regard.

3. Under the NPT, peaceful uses are one of the three indivisible pillars of the Treaty. The Czech Republic has always been working hard towards the fullest implementation of Art. IV.1, namely “contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.”

4. We are proud to point out that since 2010, the Czech Republic has been among the 18 States that are united in the „Peaceful Uses Initiative“. Thus, we would like to demonstrate that the IAEA activities are not restricted just to nuclear energy, safeguards and inspections even though we consider them as the core prerequisite for achieving the nuclear disarmament. The other part of peaceful uses relevant to the NPT relates to non-power uses of nuclear energy. With relatively limited financial resources we can achieve a lot in the field of treating cancer, water sanitation, providing alimentation, secure crops etc. We firmly believe that this contributes directly to the achievement of certain Millennium Development Goals such as eradication of poverty and hunger, child health, environmental sustainability and global partnerships.

5. In 2013 the Czech Republic made a regular contribution of 150 thousand US dollars and more than 120 thousand EUR to the fund of the Technical Cooperation Program. Last year we contributed almost 280 thousand EUR in total for three extra budgetary projects related to radiation therapy services and establishing 3D conformal radiotherapy as well as to ageing management and remaining life-time assessment.

6. The Czech Republic proudly contributes to strengthening safeguards and IAEA's capacities through the Member States Support Programme under which we host on an annual basis, among other projects, the Comprehensive Inspection Exercise at LWRs and Nuclear Materials Accounting in Action course. The most sought after course is undoubtedly the Technical visit to Uranium Mines. Furthermore, the Czech Nuclear Research Institute in Rež is in the process of qualification for IAEA’s Environmental Network Laboratories (NWAL) for Bulk Analysis.
7. Along with other developed countries, the Czech Republic supports IAEA’s effort to provide technical support to its member states. In 2013 various organizations in the Czech Republic provided 16 long-term fellowships and 18 short-term scientific visits for foreign experts. Courses focusing on advanced nuclear technologies in medicine, radiation protection, nuclear waste management and training courses on Czech research reactors are highly sought after.

Mr. Chairman,

8. In connection with peaceful uses, we would like to draw attention to their conditions set out by the Treaty, i.e. in conformity with articles I and II. In this regard, it is therefore valid to stress the need for the universalisation of export controls and their implementation in line with UNSCR 1540 (2004). Only the universal application of these norms can facilitate more reliable environment for transfers of technologies and dual use goods and prevent undue misunderstandings in that connection.

9. Moreover, we would like to point out that in our view the conformity with articles I and II is also relevant to conditions of withdrawal from the Treaty. Therefore, it is of utmost importance for us that the withdrawal is communicated to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and all items and benefits gained during the State’s NPT membership must not be in any circumstances used other than in peaceful ways. The relevant part of the State’s nuclear programme must remain subject to all lifetime IAEA safeguards with the Additional Protocol and supplier states should decide whether the items received shall be returned or dismantled.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The Czech Republic underlines the importance of international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear safety. Only universal accession to all relevant conventions as soon as possible can ensure a satisfactory level of nuclear safety. We urge all states to become parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment. We strongly believe that the principle of peer reviews represents an extremely useful instrument for strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the national regulatory infrastructure for nuclear and radiation safety.

11. The Czech Republic has been always an honest advocate of multilateral cooperation and approaches in contribution to key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of peaceful uses. The international community should focus more than ever on those multilateral projects that could lead to new environmentally safe and reliable sources of energy. The International Thermonuclear Energy Reactor Programme could certainly serve as one of the models of such cooperation.

12. In conclusion, allow me to express my sincere belief that under able leadership we can attain further progress in achieving the goals of the Action Plan related to the cluster III issues.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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