EU Statement

By

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Cluster 3

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Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland* and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

1. The European Union reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the Treaty. The European Union is strongly committed to the objectives of Article IV. Through multilateral and bilateral cooperation programmes, the EU supports many peaceful and beneficial applications of nuclear technology, in particular in developing countries.

2. Following the adoption by consensus of the Action Plan set out in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the EU and its Member States have, and are continuing to address further international co-operation, based on the safe and secure development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

3. The European Union remains committed to ensuring the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field. In this regard, we stress the key role played by the IAEA and reaffirm that the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, should be accepted universally as the international verification standard.

4. We have continued to support actively the Agency's safeguards system through, inter alia, the EC Safeguards Support Programme with an average of €3.3 million per year, and through the support from some EU Member States. Furthermore, the EU, in addition to the individual contributions from its Member States, has contributed €10 million towards modernising the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL). The European Union has also provided the Agency with technology and expertise from the EC’s Joint Research Centre and its Institutes at Ispra (Italy), Geel (Belgium) and Karlsruhe (Germany) in many technical areas related to the effective implementation of safeguards verification measures.

5. The EU and its Member States are strong supporters of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. The EU and its Member States value the Agency's role in the responsible development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, preservation of cultural heritage, nuclear and radiation safety, and nuclear energy in participating IAEA Member States, thereby also contributing to meeting the needs of developing countries.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
* Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.
The European Union supports both the IAEA, and cooperation with third countries, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology with funds estimated to amount to some €150 million per year. Part of this funding is implemented in third countries through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Fund, to which the EU and its Member States are the largest contributors. In addition to individual EU Member States contributions, since 2010, the EU has also contributed to the Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative with more than 13 million Euros.

6. The second EU-IAEA Senior Officials Meeting in February 2014 in Vienna brought together high-level representatives from both organisations and discussed enhanced cooperation and follow up steps regarding joint actions. It followed the successful visit of DG Amano in Brussels on 3-4 February 2014, when he met with European Commission President Barroso, Commissioner for Energy Oettinger, and other high-level EU officials, as well as meeting with High Representative/Vice President Ashton in Munich.

7. In addition to €524 million allocated through the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) for the period 2007-2013, another €225 million has been earmarked for the period 2014-2020 for the promotion of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of effective and efficient safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries. Between 2007 and 2011, the Instrument for Pre-Accession financed nuclear safety and radiation protection activities in those countries that are candidates and potential candidates for EU membership, the funds having amounted to €31 million.

8. In line with the African Union - EU Partnership on Peace and Security, the EU is ready to develop possible EU activities in support of the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty in the territories of the States Parties, including through continued discussions with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). In this respect, a joint Seminar with South Africa for several southern African countries was organised by the EU on 5-7 February 2014 in Pretoria.

9. In light of the Fukushima accident, the EU and its Member States are substantially contributing to the Comprehensive Fukushima Report of the IAEA. A revision of the EU Directive establishing a community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations, on the basis of the findings of the comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessments ("stress tests") carried out at all European Union nuclear power plants, is currently being discussed by the EU decision making bodies with a view to further enhancing nuclear safety in the EU. This will further contribute to the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The European Commission had concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the IAEA on nuclear safety cooperation. The EU and its Member States encourage all efforts to ensure coherence between nuclear safety, security and safeguards from the outset of nuclear installations – from comprehensive site evaluation, design and construction, to operation and management of a nuclear power plant.

10. The EU and its Member States attach great importance to increasing transparency and trust between countries that are developing nuclear construction projects including in the
vicinity or not of other countries and those affected by such projects. In this regard, all nuclear power plants planned or under construction should meet the highest nuclear safety requirements, in full compliance with all relevant international agreements.

11. We encourage IAEA Member States to host peer review and follow up missions in the field of nuclear safety and security, such as Integrated Regulatory Review Service, Operational Safety Review Teams, and International Physical Protection Advisory Service to conduct national reviews on a regular basis.

12. The European Union remains firmly convinced of the benefits of multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. In line with the NPT conclusions on this matter, the EU welcomes the steps taken to establish an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank. The EU continues to be committed to supporting the future LEU Bank under IAEA auspices: €20 million has been already transferred to the Agency. The EU stresses that further progress on this important initiative is needed and invites all parties concerned to engage constructively in this matter.

13. The European Union stresses the need to do everything possible to prevent the risks of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear or other radioactive material falling into the hands of terrorists. In this context, we stress the importance of compliance with obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), and call for improved nuclear security. The EU has provided support to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund since 2004 with more than €40 million in addition to voluntary contributions made individually by some of its member states. We will actively participate in the special meeting of the UN Security Council devoted to the tenth anniversary of the Resolution 1540 to take place in New York on 7 May, 2014. The EU also actively participated in the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security in July 2013 and welcomes the Ministerial Declaration adopted during the High Level Segment. Preventing nuclear terrorism by continuously improving the security of nuclear materials is a global challenge that indeed requires a global platform.

14. The EU participates in or contributes to initiatives such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Nuclear Security Summits (NSS) process. All states are encouraged to consider participating in the GICNT, including the next plenary in Helsinki in June 2015. We will continue to work on preventing nuclear terrorism and on improving nuclear material security, including as highlighted at the March 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague.

15. We have submitted a working paper on EU efforts to strengthen nuclear safety.

16. Effective physical protection is of the utmost importance in preventing nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists or accidental misuse, and to protect nuclear facilities against unauthorised use and malicious acts. The EU therefore urges all States that have not yet done so, to become party as soon as possible to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its amendment in order to
expedite its entry into force. The EU also urges all states that have not yet done so to ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

17. The EU and its Member States underline the importance of continuing international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear safety, the management of waste in a safe and secure way, radiological protection and civil nuclear liability, and call upon states that have not yet done so to accede to all the relevant conventions as soon as possible and to implement fully the ensuing commitments.

18. The EU believes that strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime constitutes an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. The EU thus calls on all NPT State Parties to be united in recommending to the 2015 RevCon concrete measures for ensuring a responsible development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the best safety, security, and non-proliferation conditions, by countries who wish to launch or develop capacities in this field.