Statement by

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to the International Organizations in Vienna

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2020 NPT Review Conference

Cluster III:
Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

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Mr. Chairman,

As global interest in nuclear energy continues to expand across the world with evident momentum and while developing countries are increasingly investing in their national nuclear infrastructures, it becomes imperative that the new review cycle of the NPT once again reaffirms, collectively, the importance of promoting international cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Article IV of the NPT was explicit and straightforward; state parties to the NPT had the inalienable right to develop research, production, and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and undertake to facilitate, and participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the NPT's unequivocal commitment and championing of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we are deeply concerned with what seems to be continued attempts by some state parties to the NPT to promote unilateral and plurilateral measures that hinder the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We regret the inclination by some state parties to propose measures and adopt policies that
seeming run contrary to the objectives of the NPT by restricting international cooperation and limiting assistance in this field with varying, and oftentimes, unconvincing justifications. This approach and spirit can only undermine the NPT and erode its credibility.

It is important to underscore that the NPT does not prohibit in anyway the use or transfer of nuclear technology, material, or equipment for peaceful purposes on criterion based on sensitivity. Restricting the transfer of sensitive material and technology contravenes the provisions and spirit of the NPT, especially that all such material would be subject to full scope IAEA safeguards.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As a strong supporter for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries to promote socio-economic development, Egypt stresses that the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program plays a vital role in the process of transfer of nuclear technology and know-how to developing countries. We believe that the current guidelines and criteria of the IAEA for the selection of technical cooperation projects are effective enough that do not warrant additional criteria to be imposed for fulfilling the above objective. Accordingly, Egypt rejects attempts that seek to politicize the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency, including its technical cooperation program. We
believe that empowering the IAEA to support this program, and under its guidance, the international community will be advancing the fullest possible cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

Although the NPT was explicit in its call to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy among its State Parties, we are deeply alarmed that some state parties to the NPT are engaging in cooperative exchanges in the field of nuclear technology but with States Non-Party to the NPT. We believe this is a serious drawback with significant negative repercussions. At a time when the nuclear nonproliferation regime faces significant challenges and while countries grapple to strengthen this regime and uphold its values, some state parties are offering assistance and engaging in bilateral cooperation with states that have rebuffed the NPT and refused to be part of its regime. Moreover, discussion on their inclusion as full members in plurilateral nuclear groups related to nuclear exports sends the wrong messages and weakens the incentive for these States to join the NPT and reduces the prospect of achieving its universalization.
We therefore, take this opportunity to strongly call for the enforcement, without exception or further delay, of the total and complete prohibition, as stipulated in the NPT, of the transfer of all nuclear related equipment, information, material, and facilities, resources, and devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear, scientific, or technological fields to

Mr. Chairman,

As global interest in nuclear power generation continues to expand across the globe, it becomes imperative that the international community ensures that appropriate measures aimed at improving nuclear security and nuclear safety are enforced. However, while improving regulations should be welcomed, we are nevertheless concerned that in the global pursuit to ensure nuclear security and safety, there is a detectable growing inclination by some state parties to the NPT that seeks to associate the degree of their cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the standards and measures adopted by states with regards to nuclear security. We believe that this association has no legal grounds and has the potential of being politically misused as a pretext to deny or restrict the exchange of nuclear equipment, material, and technology.
Mr. Chairman,

We would like to stress that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including proposals for assurance of supply, needs to fully take into account all technical, legal, political, and economic complexities surrounding these issues. They should be conducted through wide, inclusive, and transparent multilateral consultations and negotiations. There is concern while some NPT State parties and supplier states address issues related to the multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, they are creating the possibility of a process that may lead to the erosion of Article IV of the NPT. Once again, nothing should restrict state parties to the NPT from exercising their inalienable right to develop research, production, and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

As we embark on a new Review Cycle for the NPT, we would like to stress that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article IV of the Treaty plays a crucial role in achieving the objective and purpose of the Treaty. We hope this new review cycle will present new practical ideas that contribute to advancing cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy among NPT State Parties.

Thank you.