Mr Chairman,

I associate myself fully with the statement made by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman
Finland was the first country to agree on a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and has produced nuclear energy safely and reliably for almost 40 years. Today, one third of Finland’s electricity is produced by nuclear power.

The operation of nuclear power plants together with modernisation, improvement and construction projects have increased knowhow throughout the nuclear related industry in Finland. We attach great importance to the improvement of nuclear safety and security. It is essential that countries using nuclear power, or embarking on nuclear power, have a sound legislative and regulatory framework on nuclear and radiation safety.

There are currently two ongoing NPP projects in Finland. These new builds and the currently operating four nuclear power plant units, together with increased renewable energy, will play a very important role in the electricity production and in achieving our emission reduction targets.

The responsible use of nuclear energy includes a nuclear waste management strategy. This should always be considered from the very beginning of the development of a nuclear power programme. In 2015 Finland granted a construction license for the
final underground repository for spent nuclear fuel. Globally, this is the first final disposal facility project that has proceeded into the construction phase. The underground repository will make use of the most advanced technology that has mainly been developed in Finland. It will meet strict safety, security and safeguards requirements.

The security of nuclear materials and facilities is given a high priority in Finland. Finland has also provided financial and in-kind support to nuclear security worldwide, including through the Nuclear Security Fund (NSF) of the IAEA.

Mr Chairman,

The NPT constitutes the global framework for reliable cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In order to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear technology worldwide, the basic requirement is that IAEA safety standards and security guidance are applied to all cooperation involving nuclear and/or radiological material.

The responsible use of nuclear energy includes effective control of the nuclear material and the fuel cycle, as well as a nuclear waste management strategy. These are the key components in Finland’s international cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Thank you Mr. Chairman