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Mr. Chair,

Norway fully recognizes the inalienable right for peaceful uses of the States parties to the Treaty. By abiding to the NPT safeguards obligation, and through the Additional protocol, a State Party improves confidence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. Developing nuclear energy must be based on the highest possible safety, security and non-proliferation standards.

We have previously witnessed that excess stocks of highly enriched uranium for weapons purposes have been brought under IAEA safeguards and subsequently used for generating electricity. Nuclear disarmament can actually contribute to peaceful uses.

Multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle provide avenues for countries seeking to reap benefits of nuclear energy, without having to develop costly enrichment or reprocessing facilities. In previous years, Norway has contributed to the IAEA efforts in this area. We believe such approaches serve both nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use.

As a coastal state, however, Norway has a particular concern in ensuring that transport of radioactive materials are consistent with relevant international standards of safety, security and environmental protection.

Norway calls for the full universalization of relevant international legally binding instruments in the field of nuclear security and safety. The prime responsibility for safety and security lies with the country concerned. Nonetheless, we fully recognize the need to enhance international partnerships, technical cooperation as well as forms of assistance in this area. The IAEA’s role in this regard is key. Norway reiterates that we would like to see a sufficient amount of the IAEA regular budget devoted to nuclear safety and security. The Agency is also an essential partner in promoting best practices. Furthermore, there is a need to engage the nuclear industry and private sector on these matters.

Mr. Chair,

Peaceful applications of nuclear technologies go far beyond mere generation of nuclear power. Isotopes are crucial in sectors such as health, food productions, water management, environmental monitoring and cultural preservation. Hence, article IV of the NPT is highly relevant for achieving the Sustainable Strategic Development Goals.

Wider nuclear applications must continue to form a large part of the IAEA technical cooperation program. We urge all States Parties pay their assessed share to the IAEA TC Fund in time, and consider other voluntary contributions. Recently, Norway provided funds to the Peaceful Uses initiative (PUI). Parts of our contribution were earmarked for the application of nuclear technology in combatting ebola. We would also like to highlight the importance the IAEA
Program of Action for Cancer Therapy.

The IAEA is becoming an increasingly important partner for promoting sustainable development. This task must, however, be carried out in close cooperation and coordination with other relevant agencies. We are pleased to observe that the IAEA is actively engaged in such cooperative arrangements.

Thank you.