Mr. Chairman,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the European Union under this cluster. Our general priorities are also reflected in the comprehensive working papers prepared by the European Union and the Vienna Group of Ten.

I would like to make the following remarks from a national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden, is deeply concerned by the DPRK’s persistence in accelerating its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, thus defying the international community. Tensions in North East Asia are rising and the potential for mistakes, misunderstandings and miscalculations is high. International peace and security are at risk. We call on the DPRK to take immediate steps towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden believes in strong verification regimes that can build trust, increase confidence and transparency. The role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in verifying non-proliferation obligations under article III of the NPT is crucial for the credibility of the Treaty. Together we have to make sure that the IAEA is given adequate resources and independence to continue carrying out this essential task.

This year we are celebrating two birthdays. Sweden is proud to have been contributing to the IAEA safeguards support programme for 30 years – with equipment as well as training.

We also celebrate 20 years of the Model Additional Protocol. It is an indispensable tool for IAEA safeguards, and together with the comprehensive safeguards agreement has become the current verification standard pursuant to article III of the Treaty. We call on all States, who have not already done so, to conclude and ratify the Additional Protocol.
As part of the JCPOA, Iran provisionally applies the Additional Protocol. We believe that an early ratification by Iran would be a welcome step to create sustainability and enhance confidence. The full implementation of the JCPOA is essential, as the avoidance of actions undermining mutual trust.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear Security and nuclear terrorism has for many years been high on the political agenda. It remains a global challenge. Sweden continues to be an active member of the Global Partnership. We cooperate with several eastern European countries to assist in upgrading nuclear security and prevent nuclear terrorism. We also support the IAEA’s work on nuclear security as well as its coordinating role. Since 2010 we have supported the IAEA’s trust fund with more than half a million euro.

All nuclear material and radioactive materials need to be protected. This includes military material. We call on all states that possess nuclear weapons to increase transparency and confidence in the effective security of such materials.

The multilateral export control regimes constitute an indispensable part of the global non-proliferation work in support of the NPT. Ensuring their continued effectiveness, including by updating the regimes in light of new and emerging technologies, is crucial.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden remains committed to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East. We regret that it was not possible to convene the Helsinki conference as foreseen by the outcome document from the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In order to agree on the arrangements for a meaningful conference, the only sustainable way forward is through dialogue and confidence building among all the stakeholders.

Thank you!