Mr. Chairman,

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are, without a doubt, key issues in the “grand bargain” struck over fifty years ago by the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Building on and strengthening the work so far by many State parties to the Treaty and facilitating access to the benefits of the atom for development through the nuclear applications in the fields of health, agriculture, water management and other that are essential to sustainable development must be one of the highlights of the current Review process.

In recent years, and in spite of the undeniable impact of the Fukushima-Daiichi accident, the production of nuclear energy receives a renewed level of attention and new undertakings are coming up for the construction of new power plants, including in Argentina. This positive situation benefits from renewed perspectives on the issue,
given the new appreciation for nuclear energy generation in the light of the urgent need for clean energy sources that do not aggravate global warming nor add to the global carbon emissions. Argentina is one of the countries that found the adequate environment to develop its nuclear program for peaceful uses over fifty years ago, within the “grand bargain” of the NPT. The current review process towards NPT 2020 finds us busy with projects in a number of fields – development, building and life-extension of reactors; building research reactors; fuel cycle; spent fuel management and Low Enriched Uranium; and technical cooperation, in particular at regional level.

Mr. Chairman,

The positive cycle for nuclear energy and applications was positively reinforced by the inclusion of energy issues in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The 2030 Agenda is a multilateral platform that is widely regarded by States as a tool to foster economic, social and environmental development – the three elements of sustainable development, with an additional angle provided by the explicit objective of building peaceful societies. The points in common between the NPT and the 2030 Agenda are not limited, therefore, to the energy issues,
captured in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, the commitment to ensure universal access to energy services that are reliable, sustainable, modern and affordable. There is an active debate today on the possible contribution that the promotion of nuclear energy for development can make to fulfill, not only SDG 7, but the 2030 Agenda as a whole, through innovative technologies.

The NPT offers the necessary and adequate framework for such promotion, which can be linked not only to SDG 7 on energy but also to the SDG 16 -which establishes the promotion of fairer, more peaceful and more inclusive societies- as well as SDG 4 on education, specifically through target 4.7 that provides for all students to have access to the theoretical and practical knowledge needed for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, among other values. Delegations may recall that the promotion of education for disarmament was one of the main issues analyzed at the 2015 RevConf. In this regard, target 4.7 could offer objective criteria.

Mr. Chairman,
Our societies clearly demand greater nuclear safety, as an essential component of any nuclear energy and applications development. My country is one of the many that work together with the Agency to develop the universal framework of norms and standards for nuclear safety.

We have faced important challenges, such as the recent Fukushima-Daiichi accident, which led to the adoption of the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan for the strengthening of the nuclear safety system, and created favorable conditions for the strengthening of the Nuclear Safety Convention and its review process. Although the Action Plan was already finalized last year, nuclear safety continues to be an area where further progress is needed.

The Diplomatic Conference that took place in February 2015 to consider a proposed amendment to the Nuclear Safety Convention was a step forward in this regard. The unanimous adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety found the formula to strengthen consensus within the Convention. After having chaired that Conference, Argentina welcomes the wide acceptance that the Declaration has received, as reflected in a number of resolutions and working documents in the IAEA and in the reports on its application by
the State parties to the Nuclear Safety Convention at its Review Conference in April 2017. The current work at the CSS is a very positive step towards extending this agreement to all members of the Agency, and the State parties to the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

There exists a growing expectation, in the field of security, for the achievements and consensus emanating from a number of dynamic fora on nuclear security to be consolidated and integrated at the global level, in particular the work of the IAEA with its 168 members and -why not- reaching the 190 States parties to the NPT. As recognized by many at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security last December, our efforts to include in the work of the Agency the latest debates on issues of the highest concern as are those of nuclear security will serve to strengthen the Agency as the foremost multilateral institution in the field, where we can discuss, agree and operationalize high-level consensus reached elsewhere. Several areas have been identified where it is possible and necessary to move forward, on the basis of the work already started within the prestigious Nuclear Security Contact Group that met in Vienna last Friday, such as: the development of
guidance for Member States, including under the Nuclear Security Series; support for the efforts of Member States to comply with their responsibilities regarding nuclear security, through review missions and technical support for regulatory development; and the implementation of coordinated research projects (CRPs) to lead the collaboration among Member States to face the challenges of nuclear security that affect several countries, among others.

Bearing in mind the importance of the cooperation in the diverse fora that are today working at the international level, Argentina is coordinating with Japan an exercise of dialogue and understanding between Nuclear Customers and Suppliers established within the IFNEC, aimed at identifying relevant issues for both parties in order to ensure a better dissemination of nuclear technology for power uses – giving priority attention to security and safety, the training of human resources and capacity building, the financial aspects, social acceptance and transparency.

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation is persuaded that a profound reassessment of the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is needed and, to that
end, is working in the promotional fora, including IAEA, so that the Review Conference can achieve new concrete and ambitious goals under this pillar of the NPT, as it does when it comes to disarmament and to non-proliferation. This will allow us to reclaim the philosophy of Article IV and to fulfill it in its full significance.

In this regard, this year offers two specific fora where most of the main actors in this field will be represented, specialists that not always can participate in our preparatory meetings that are to some degree dominated by security experts:

- The International Conference on the Technical Cooperation Program of IAEA, which will take place in Vienna at the end of the month, in order to debate ways to strengthen the contribution of the Agency to the sustainable development in each of our countries, as well as at the global level and with regard to the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

- The International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy in the Twenty-first Century, which will take place in Abu Dhabi at the end of October next, where Argentina will have an active participation.
Let’s be clear. For most of the States parties to the NPT, including developing countries such as Argentina, the so-called Third Pillar that deals with the promotion of peaceful activities are not an afterthought, nor an appendix to the more “glamorous” issues linked to international security. On the contrary, it is a fundamental pillar, that cannot be just relied to other institution such as the IAEA. The NPT review cannot be complete without an in-depth evaluation of the third pillar that leads to concrete, effective commitments to strengthen the ability of NPT members to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.