Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the NPT.

2. The Group emphasizes that promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the realization of “the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of the Treaty” as stipulated in Article IV, constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. Nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting this right.

3. The Group reaffirms the importance of the right of States parties to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as their right to cooperation among themselves, in particular in the technological field.
4. The Group recognizes the major and important role of the IAEA in assisting, in particular developing States to the Treaty, in planning for and the use of nuclear science and technology. The Group stresses the importance of nuclear knowledge-sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries for the sustaining and further enhancement of their scientific and technological capabilities, thereby also contributing to their socio-economic development.

5. The Group stresses that the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program, as the main vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, should continue to be formulated and implemented in accordance with the IAEA statute. While expressing its full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA, the Group strongly rejects any attempts by any State to politicize the work of the IAEA, including its technical cooperation program, in violation of its statute, as well as any pressure or interference in the Agency’s activities, which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the IAEA.

6. The Group reaffirms that choices and decisions of each State party to the Treaty in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be fully respected without jeopardizing its policies or international cooperation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

7. The Group underlines that “all parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.” In this regard, the Group stresses
particularly the obligation of developed countries to promote the legitimate need of the developing countries to nuclear energy, by fully respecting this right with a view to achieving the widest benefits and applying pertinent elements of sustainable development in their activities.

8. The Group emphasizes that the Treaty does not prohibit the transfer or use of nuclear technology, equipment or material for peaceful purposes based on their “sensitivity”, and only stipulates that such technology, equipment and material must be subject to full-scope IAEA safeguards. The Group firmly believes that fostering the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by providing a framework of confidence and cooperation within which those uses can take place, is one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty.

9. The Group emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. The Group further emphasizes that non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development.

10. The Group recognizes that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the individual States. The Group reaffirms the central role of the IAEA in nuclear safety-related matters including through the establishment of nuclear safety standards.
11. The Group underscores the strong call by the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty that all States parties shall ensure that their nuclear-related exports do not directly or indirectly assist the development of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and that such exports are in full conformity with the objectives and purposes of the Treaty as stipulated, particularly, in Articles I, II and III of the Treaty, as well as the decision on principles and objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted in 1995 by the Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty.

12. The Group while stressing the importance of safeguards and the significance of maintaining the principles of confidentiality regarding safeguards, underlines the vital responsibility of the IAEA in this regard.

13. The Group reiterates that the IAEA is the sole competent authority responsible for the verification of the fulfillment of safeguards obligations assumed by States parties under the Treaty, with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear material and technology from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as the global focal point for nuclear technical cooperation.

14. The Group stresses the importance of the IAEA safeguards system and urges all States that have yet to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements to do so as soon as possible, in order to achieve the universality of the comprehensive safeguards. Additional measures related to the safeguards shall not affect the rights of the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, which are already committed to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and have renounced the nuclear-weapon option.

15. The Group emphasizes that it is fundamental to make a clear distinction between legal obligations and voluntary confidence-building measures and
that such voluntary undertakings shall not be turned into legal safeguards obligations.

16. The Group believes that the differentiated nature of financial obligations undertaken by Member States of the IAEA with respect to safeguards should be recognized and respected by the IAEA in its work.

17. The Group emphasizes that strict observance of and adherence to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards and to the Treaty are a condition for any cooperation in the nuclear area with States not parties to the Treaty, or for any supply arrangement with such States for the transfer of source or special fissionable material, or equipment or material specially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material. The Group confirms that all States parties to the Treaty shall refrain from the transfer of nuclear technology and materials to States not parties to the Treaty unless those conditions are met.

18. The Group calls upon all States not parties to the Treaty to accede, without any further delay and any preconditions and as non-nuclear-weapon States, to the Treaty and place all their nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

19. The Group also calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to undertake to accept full-scope safeguards. This is to be set forth in an agreement to be concluded with IAEA in accordance with its statute, for the exclusive purpose of verifying the fulfillment of the nuclear-weapon States’ obligations assumed under this Treaty.

20. The Group reaffirms that under Article III (1) of the Treaty, each non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty undertakes to accept safeguards
“for the exclusive purpose of verification of the fulfillment of its obligations assumed under this Treaty with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”.

21. The Group calls for the strict observance of Article III (3) of the Treaty, by which the required safeguards “shall be implemented in a manner designed to comply with Article IV of the Treaty, and to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of the parties or international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, including the international exchange of nuclear material and equipment for the processing, use or production of nuclear material for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of this article and the principle of safeguarding set forth in the preamble of the Treaty”.

Mr. Chairman,

22. The Group welcomes the efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world and calls for cooperation and broad consultations in order to achieve agreements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned. The Group welcomes the establishment of the Tlatelolco (Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean), Rarotonga (South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty), Bangkok (Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone), Pelindaba (African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty) and Semipalatinsk (Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia)
nuclear-weapon-free zones, and considers them as positive steps and important measures towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

23. In this context, the Group strongly supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and calls for the full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. The Group strongly urges the UN Secretary General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, in close consultation and coordination with all States of the region, to exert all efforts towards the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

24. The Group reaffirms that, in the context of the nuclear-weapon-free zones, it is also essential that all nuclear-weapon States provide unconditional, non-discriminatory and concrete legal assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all non-nuclear-weapon States of the zone that are parties to the NPT. In this regard, the Group strongly calls for the withdrawal of any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of such treaties. The Group further calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to fulfill their obligations to achieve the objectives of the treaties to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and their protocols.

25. Further, on the topic of non-proliferation, the Group underscores that the Treaty is an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and a key instrument in the efforts to halt the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons.

26. The Group emphasizes that non-proliferation must be pursued and implemented without exception in all its aspects. The Group further stresses
that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament.

27. In this regard, the Group attaches great importance to the full compliance of the nuclear weapon States with Article I of the Treaty under which they have undertaken "not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices". The Group, therefore, stresses that nuclear-weapon States shall refrain and abstain from nuclear weapon-sharing with other States under any kind of security arrangements, including in the framework of military alliances.

28. Likewise, the Group underlines the prime importance of the full compliance of the non nuclear-weapon States Parties with Article II of the Treaty under which "each non-nuclear weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and not to seek or receive any assistance in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices". In this regard, the Group stresses that the non-nuclear-weapon States Parties shall refrain and abstain from nuclear weapon-sharing for any purpose and under any kind of security arrangements in times of peace or in times of war, including in the framework of military alliances.
29. Any such horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon-sharing by States Parties constitutes a clear violation of non-proliferation obligations under Articles I and II of the Treaty.

30. The Group once again stresses the importance of Decision 2 of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which stipulates that universal adherence to the Treaty is an urgent priority, and that all States not yet party are called upon to accede to the Treaty at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities.

Thank you.