Madam Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of Main Committee III and to assure you of the Group’s full cooperation in the work of this Committee.

2. It is also on behalf of the Group that I introduce Working Paper No. NPT/CONF.2005/M/20 which incorporates the position of the Group on issues relating to Main Committee III, in particular, the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Madam Chairman,

3. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT recalls that Article IV of the NPT reaffirms 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, II and III of the Treaty, and their right for technical cooperation among themselves or other international organizations, keeping in view the needs of the developing areas of the world.

4. The Group recognizes the major and important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in assisting, in particular, developing States Parties to the NPT in planning for and use of nuclear science and technology for various peaceful purposes, especially in the context of accelerating socio-economic development, including sustainable transfer of such technology and knowledge towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

5. To ensure the realizations of these goals, the Group calls on all States Parties, in particular, the developed ones, to extend their assistance in the provision of equipment, material and technology for peaceful purposes as requested by States Parties which are Member States of the IAEA and as stipulated in the IAEA Statute.

6. The Group continues to note with concern the persistence of undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes and that in this regard, the Group believes that any undue restriction or limitation of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, incompatible with the provisions of the Treaty should be removed. The Group emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discretionary agreements. It is further emphasized that non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States. Furthermore, such arrangements must pursue and implement
without exception, the adherence to IAEA comprehensive safeguards and to the NPT, as a condition for supply of cooperation with States not parties to the NPT.

Madam Chairman,

7. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT underscores that the IAEA, under its statutory obligations, pursues the goals of technical cooperation in peaceful applications of nuclear energy as one of the three pillars of its activities. The IAEA has to maintain the balance between technical cooperation and other activities. The Group believes that all NPT States Parties, which are Member States of the IAEA, have to ensure that the technical cooperation programme remains firm and sustainable through adequate financial and human resources in an assured and predictable manner and in accordance with the needs of the developing countries.

8. The Group rejects any attempt by any State Party to use the IAEA's technical cooperation programme as a tool for political purposes. The Group reaffirms that each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international cooperation of agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

9. The Group reaffirms the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities - operational or under construction - poses a grave danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the UN Charter and regulations of the IAEA. The Group recognizes the need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument, prohibiting attacks, or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

10. Finally, the Group would like to request that the final report of Main Committee III incorporates the elements of the Working Paper NPT/CNF.2005/WP.20 that I have just introduced. We believe that the acceptance and implementation of these recommendations will significantly contribute to the reaffirmation of the inalienable right of all Parties to the NPT to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

I thank you, Madam Chairman.