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A shared vision for nuclear power development and international nuclear energy cooperation

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus

1. Our countries reaffirm their commitment to the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in all of its three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

2. We respect 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. We share the view of States that consider nuclear power to be an important contributor to enhanced energy security, economical and social development and the mitigation of climate change.

3. At the same time, steps must be taken to ensure that the increased use of nuclear materials and technologies and the development of civil nuclear power take place within the global non-proliferation regime and meet the highest non-proliferation standards.

4. The nuclear fuel cycle poses specific proliferation risks, which should be minimized without prejudice to the rights of States under article IV of the Treaty.

5. The widespread promotion and practical implementation of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle could reduce proliferation risks while also strengthening energy security and ensuring that all interested States have optimal and economically attractive access to the nuclear fuel required by their power reactors.

6. We share the view that any such mechanism should be apolitical and non-discriminatory, and should be accessible to all States that are in compliance with their non-proliferation obligations. Furthermore, it should not require a State to renounce its rights regarding the development of any stage of the nuclear fuel cycle.

7. We note the importance of the Russian initiative to create multinational centres providing nuclear fuel cycle services and, as the first step in its implementation, to establish an International Uranium Enrichment Centre in Angarsk. States
participating in the Centre will have guaranteed access to enrichment services to meet their nuclear fuel needs. We also welcome the decision taken by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors in November 2009 to approve the agreement between the Russian Federation and IAEA to establish a reserve of low enriched uranium (LEU) for the supply of LEU to IAEA for the needs of its member States, and also the model agreement between IAEA and the Governments of member States for the supply of LEU for the operation of specific nuclear power plants.

8. We firmly believe that the internationalization of the nuclear fuel cycle and mechanisms of guaranteed nuclear fuel supply will help to establish new proliferation-resistant architecture for international nuclear energy cooperation.