STATEMENT
by the Delegation of the Russian Federation
at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

New York, 3-28 May 2010
Mr. Chairman,

Growing interest to peaceful nuclear energy is a commonly recognized trend of today's world. Its large-scale use can contribute to resolving problems of reliable energy supply for the world's sustainable development and the problem of global warming. As noted in the IAEA “Nuclear Technology Review 2009”, over the last two years 55 countries have shown their interest in atomic energy. According to available data the number of new countries which will operate nuclear power plants can reach 30 by 2030.

In this context, Russia consistently advocates a broad access by NPT State Parties to the benefits of “atom for peace”, development of international cooperation in this field and maintaining necessary balance between peaceful development and strengthening of nuclear non-proliferation regime in general as well as of the IAEA safeguards system in particular.

Recognition of rights of States to the benefits of “atom for peace” was confirmed in the UN Security Council Resolution 1887 of 24 September 2009 and final documents of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington.

To further develop nuclear energy and provide for its large-scale use for the purpose of economic development, interested countries should jointly implement a systemic approach to solving comprehensive tasks associated with this development. Russia not only was the initiator but still plays a leading role in sponsoring the IAEA International Project on Innovative Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO). The project was set up along the lines of the initiative proposed by the President of the Russian Federation during the UN Millennium Summit on ensuring energy sufficiency for sustainable development, radical resolution of the problem of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and securing environmental health on Earth. The number of countries participating in the INPRO has reached 30.

In July 2009, Russia joined the Framework Agreement for Generation IV International Forum - another multilateral programme initiated by the United
States in 2001. The similarity of objectives of the programme and the INPRO project implies a closer interaction between these two programmes.

The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project is yet another example of the Russian Federation's successful participation in multilateral cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy. Engineering design of the reactor has already been developed, the site for it has been chosen, and practical work on its implementation has begun.

In accordance with its obligations, Russia will make and deliver to the construction site unique equipment for main systems of the reactor. The Russian side fulfills all the obligations it has assumed, including manufacturing of superconductors, in full compliance with the high standards of the ITER project.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia is a member of a large group of nations that intend to develop atomic energy. At the same time, in our country the decision to develop national atomic energy is not only a political decision motivated by objective circumstances but a specific programme of actions with a full set of required conditions. The necessary legislation, financial and institutional frameworks for the atomic energy development have been prepared. Russia plans to spend about one trillion roubles on the development of the atomic energy sector for up to 2015. The government sets ambitious tasks to the Russian atom scientists. By 2030, the share of nuclear power generation in Russia is to increase from 16 percent to 25-30 percent.

Today Russian atomic industry is ready to supply to the market its low- and medium-power reactors which could become a real source of development for the whole number of countries. With such an advantage as the capability to generate power coupled with the potential to desalinate water, atomic energy can become one of the main driving forces in the development of many countries. In this regard we would like to note that Russia is working to develop low-power reactors of 38.5 megawatt and 6 megawatt. The reactors are
designed to work without refueling for 12 and 10 years respectively. Both types of reactors will be put to mass production.

Our country plans to launch the whole range of projects for NPPs of different capacities. The current WWER reactor project will be upgraded into the Super – WWER project, and further into a project of a new generation. We also plan to construct nuclear power plants with WWER reactors of 300 and 640 megawatt.

Along with the large-scale construction of NPPs equipped with thermal reactors, the work is in progress to develop a new generation of closed nuclear fuel cycle technologies and fourth generation fast neutron reactors.

Serious efforts in professional training are essential component of the Russian atomic energy development programme. On the basis of the Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute (MEPhI) famous for its traditions and high quality of training, as well as a number of regional educational institutions, the National Research Nuclear University – MEPhI was established following the decision made in 2008.

The University is open for admission of foreign students and specialists of the IAEA member States for training of staff for national nuclear energy programmes.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, Article IV of the NPT Russia has actively cooperated for many years with State Parties to the NPT in building and operating nuclear power plants, supplying nuclear fuel, equipment and nuclear materials, ensuring nuclear security, managing irradiated nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, and training nuclear experts.

By now, the Russian Federation has concluded intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy with 35 States, as well as a number of agreements concerning specific areas of cooperation. This creates necessary legal basis for implementing specific bilateral projects.
Russia attaches great importance to developing cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy with members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, namely with Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine.

We circulate at the Conference a joint Working Paper submitted by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, which reflects our common vision on nuclear energy development and international nuclear energy cooperation.

In March 2005, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation ratified the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage. By doing this Russia acknowledged the primacy of international law in regulating civil liability for nuclear damage. This step will contribute to the development of our cooperation with other countries in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Russia attaches great importance to the program of technical assistance and cooperation within the framework of the IAEA. The Russian Federation makes and intends to continue making voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund to the full extent. We stand for keeping its existing funding mechanism through contributions by Member States in their national currencies, the amount of which is determined in accordance with the existing practice on the basis of the UN scale.

For many years Russia has been actively cooperating with the IAEA in implementing projects seeking effective use of applied nuclear technology in areas that are important for developing the economies of the Agency’s Member States.

The Russian Federation provides assistance to the developing NPT State Parties in constructing accelerators and neutron generators, and supplies equipment for neutron radiography, gamma-therapy and liquid nitrogen production, as well as sources of ionizing radiation, etc. We are interested in
discussing possible cooperation in the field of building low-power and medium-power reactors, including mobile nuclear power plants with long service life without refueling. Such stations can be operated and fully controlled by the supplier State.

Mr. Chairman,

An inalienable right of all the NPT State Parties under its Article IV to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes implies a possibility of developing national nuclear fuel cycle, certain elements of which are quite sensitive in terms of non-proliferation.

Guaranteed access of the countries, which do not have their own facilities of such type and comply with all the obligations in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, to nuclear fuel and respective nuclear fuel cycle (NFC) services, including reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and managing high radioactive wastes, could be ensured basing not on the refusal to transfer technology but rather on cooperation. This is also a way to cut back economic costs for these countries when they start launching nuclear energy sector.

Russia believes that this approach limits proliferation of sensitive NFC technologies without impeding nuclear energy development. Development and implementation of multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel cycle aimed at providing economically viable and practically feasible alternative to creation of all NFC elements at the national level can become a basis for the resolving these tasks.

The NFC internationalization would be advantageous from the point of view of the economy, environment and security, as well as the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In January 2006, the President of the Russian Federation proposed to work together to develop global nuclear energy infrastructure and set up international centers for provision of nuclear fuel cycle services.

The establishment, together with the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the International Uranium Enrichment Center (IUEC) in Angarsk in 2007 was the
first practical contribution of Russia to the implementation of this approach. Armenia and Ukraine have also acceded to the Center. In January 2008, we officially informed the IAEA about listing IUEC as one of the Russian NFC enterprises, eligible for the IAEA safeguards. In 2008, the IUEC obtained all necessary permissions and licenses to carry out its practical activities as a supplier of products and services.

We are grateful to the IAEA for the positive assessment of the Russian initiative.

On 27 November 2009, the IAEA Board of Governors adopted the Resolution (GOV/2009/81) concerning the Russian initiative to establish a reserve of low-enriched uranium (LEU) for the supply to the IAEA for its Member States. The adoption of the Resolution facilitated the signing of the relevant Agreement between Russia and the IAEA, which envisages establishing in Russia of a 120 ton physical reserve of 5 per cent enriched LEU.

On March 29, 2010 the Agreement was signed by the Director General of the “Rosatom” State Atomic Energy Corporation Sergey V. Kirienko and the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano. This is one of the two Agreements regulating the establishment and use of the guaranteed stock. The second one is a model Agreement between the IAEA and a potential LEU recipient country.

The Russian proposal is based on Article IX of the IAEA Statute. The rights of the IAEA Member States, including to developing their own production capacity in the sphere of the NFC, have been neither violated, nor infringed. In other words, in order to have the right to receive the LEU from the guaranteed reserve it is not necessary to renounce the right to establish and develop own fuel cycle. We have not established such a condition. The guaranteed reserve is a response to the concerns of those, who are afraid to be in full dependence on the nuclear fuel market situation or the political will of some states.
The supply of material can be made to any non-nuclear IAEA Member State that does not violate its obligations under the Safeguards Agreement and placed all its peaceful nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards.

The Russian proposal does not conflict with other existing initiatives in the field of multilateral NFC approaches and guarantees of nuclear fuel supplies or compete with them by any means. Russia stands ready for cooperation with the NPT States Parties to advance such initiatives.

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to ensuring the safety of nuclear power installations, which is an indispensable condition of the nuclear energy development. Russia takes an active part in the Convention on Nuclear Safety. As mandated by the Convention, the Russian Federation prepared its national reports, reflecting its compliance with the obligations to ensure nuclear safety in the country, and submitted them at the meetings to review national reports held in 2005 and 2008.

The Russian Federation decided to assist Ukraine in strengthening security of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and accelerating its decommissioning. To this end, in 2009 we allocated 10 million USD to the Nuclear Safety Account and 7 million USD to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund.

As a practical contribution to strengthening security, the Russian Federation assisted the Republic of Armenia in enhancing safety at the Armenia nuclear power plant within the IAEA technical cooperation programme. In 2008 we allocated 240 million rubles for these purposes, and we take active part in the implementation of the "Armenian" projects.

We attach great importance to the problem of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management. Russia has ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. In 2007, Russia adopted the Federal Target Programme on Ensuring Nuclear and Radiation Safety for 2008 and up to 2015.
Russia is taking part in the IAEA programme to establish a network of regional international training and demonstration centers for reprocessing and storing radioactive wastes produced as a result of application of nuclear methods in health care, scientific research and industry.

In May 2009 the third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management recognized the repatriation of spent fuel of research reactors as positive and efficient practice. The repatriation from third countries of HEU fuel for research reactors of Russian and American design is carried out through cooperation between Russia and the US with the participation of the IAEA. Its implementation will considerably reduce the risk of HEU proliferation. Fourteen states are covered by the programme of HEU fuel repatriation to Russia.

The Russian Federation supports the IAEA programme on decreasing the level of enrichment of nuclear fuel for research reactors to less than 20 per cent. Its implementation will allow to considerably reduce the risk of HEU proliferation.

It is the international cooperation that in many respects defines the successful implementation of the costly projects often requiring some non-conventional technological solutions, but having high priority in terms of environment and nuclear and physical safety. In this respect, the Russian side confirms its intention to be involved as a donor in the project of removal of the spent nuclear fuel from Vinca research reactor (the Republic of Serbia).

Spent nuclear fuel management is not only a difficult technological problem but often also a pivotal one when programmes on the use of atomic energy are considered by the public. The issue of spent nuclear fuel might be solved both through multilateral approaches and through rendering a complex set of services by a supplying country. It means that a country supplying nuclear
fuel repatriates the spent nuclear fuel for further management. Such an approach is applied by Russia in its cooperation with several countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT is a key element, a guarantor of constantly expanding international cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy. Russia is ready to further cooperate with State Parties to the Treaty. We believe that cooperation in this field should achieve the goals of development and expansion of geography for peaceful uses of atomic energy together with strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.