Mr. Chairman,

First, let me congratulate you on your election to lead this important Committee. I can assure you of my delegation’s full support.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway affirms the right of all Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, and in conformity with the Treaty. Equally, we recognize that this right comes with the obligation to ensure that all nuclear activities are carried out in accordance with the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation.

The NPT provides the framework for international confidence and cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which plays an essential role in a number of areas central to human development: health, water management, agriculture, food safety and nutrition, energy and environmental protection. At the heart of this framework stands the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Considering the expected growth in nuclear power, this Agency is more important than ever.

(Check against delivery)
For Norway, supporting the IAEA is crucial. While we expect the Agency to carry out its tasks efficiently and fairly, we also accept that this work comes at a financial cost. Norway intends to step up its efforts, including financial support for projects under the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the last review conference, the Fukushima accident has reminded us of the risks related to nuclear power plants. Our obligation is to learn from the accident, to improve the safety standards and to make sure that standards are turned into action. Again, the IAEA is central.

To a coastal state like Norway, transport safety is a particular priority, and we appreciate the on-going cooperation between coastal states and states that transport radioactive materials. This dialogue was also called for through action 62 of the Action Plan.

Mr. Chairman,

Peaceful uses also comes with a responsibility, and the implementation of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols with the IAEA are essential in this respect. These tools strengthens the protection of our collective security and facilitate peaceful uses.

The Nuclear Security Summits have contributed substantially to nuclear security and to keeping fissile material beyond the reach of terrorists. Norway urges all States that have not yet done so to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment as soon as possible. The same applies to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
We recognize the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear energy. The goal must be to secure all fissile materials. It is encouraging that a growing number of civilian research reactors now are being converted to use low enriched uranium. In Norway, we have discontinued the use of highly radioactive sources in our hospitals.

On all these issues, it is our opinion that the Working Paper presented by the Vienna Group of 10 provides useful guidance in summarizing core focus areas for responsible peaceful use.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.