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при
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STATEMENT
BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE 2005 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)
ON ARTICLE IV OF THE TREATY

New-York, May 23, 2005

The Russian Federation believes that the nearest future holds no other option but further development and improvement of nuclear energy sector.

According to current expert analysis the stocks of oil and natural gas could be virtually exhausted by the second half of the 21st century. Moreover, the countries that have joined the Kyoto Protocol – including Russia which has recently signed and ratified it – undertake to reduce emission of the so-called "greenhouse gases" into the atmosphere. A comprehensive solution to this problem is likely to entail full-scale nuclear energy development.

With this in mind, Russia has consistently advocated broad access of the Treaty's member States to the benefits of peaceful application of nuclear energy as well as cooperation in this field.

Presently it is apparent that the significance of the Article IV of the NPT providing for the inalienable right of non-nuclear States parties to the Treaty "to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination..." will continue to increase. Pursuit of scientific expertise gathered in all fields of nuclear science is a natural and expected process. As the worldwide significance and role of the nuclear energy will increase, more countries and experts will be involved in this sphere of high and state-of-the-art technology and practical application of world nuclear energy both on the basis of existing and new technologies.

At the same time we are firmly convinced that it is essential to create an environment that would objectively prevent the spread of sensitive nuclear technology and nuclear materials used for producing nuclear weapons. When exercising possibilities of creating such technologies in individual countries one should be expressly guided by economic feasibility and relevant national conditions and needs.

The supplies and services communication system currently in place in the world nuclear energy sector is completely adequate for our civilization's needs in

such spheres as nuclear power, science and technology, industry and agriculture - to name just a few. Mature nuclear market enjoys stable balance. Therefore we believe that today there are no implications – neither economic nor political – to upset this balance.

We share the opinion of the IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei on the need for early development and creation of a system of international nuclear fuel supply guarantees, as well as for development of possible ways to handle such technologies in regional centers under multinational control.

In this regard it is essential to pursue further strengthening of the role and authority of the IAEA, a competent and responsible organization that provides for such cooperation on a global scale. This, in our opinion, would ensure an appropriate balance between further exploration of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The 50th anniversary of launching the first nuclear power plant in Obninsk was celebrated last June. Around the same time, in late June of 2004, the Russian Federation held under the IAEA aegis an international conference called "50 years of nuclear energy" which – from what we can see – became a significant milestone in the history of the world nuclear energy. The main conclusions reached at the Conference are as follows:

The first 5 mW nuclear power plant served as a symbol of a new era in the 20th century power industry.

Large-scale peaceful use of nuclear energy can and must become the symbol of the 21st century.

It is clear today that further development of nuclear energy and its full-scale use will involve solving a broad range of new fundamental and comprehensive tasks that require a systemic approach.

These tasks are addressed within the framework of an international project on innovative reactors and fuel cycle – INPRO – carried out by the IAEA at the Russian initiative.

Its primary task is to create nuclear energy systems that would be economically competitive, environmentally safe and capable of bringing the risk of proliferation to naught and providing for sustainable development of civilization.

Another stage of the project testing the methodology of a case-by-case comparison of innovative nuclear energy systems is now over.

The methodology has already been applied to evaluate existing national nuclear energy technologies, including in terms of how well they fit with the non-proliferation requirements.

The INPRO project's first tangible results, that produced a wide international resonance, significantly enhanced its authority. The number of participants involved in the project has now reached 22, including the European Commission. The INPRO project is joined by states that also participate in another international project pioneered by the US – Generation IV International Forum. This means the time is ripe for organizing a closer cooperation between these two projects.

The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project is yet another example of successful international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities. A unique reactor engineering project has already been blueprinted. We hope that the complex negotiations on choosing a site will be soon completed and the project will be put on a practical track.

It seems that the analysis of technical aspects of promising innovations could prove useful for research on problems and stages of establishing an international nuclear fuel cycle (NFC) structure.

We believe that internalization of the spent fuel problem and international cooperation, for instance, in building and operating storage facilities would benefit economy, environment and security, as well as promote nuclear non-proliferation. We commend the results of the work done by the IAEA Expert Group established by the Agency Director General Mohamed ElBaradei to consider possible multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycles.

We believe it is worth mentioning the scenarios of international approaches to the NFC outlined by the Expert Group:

1. Reinforcing existing commercial market mechanisms on a case-by-case basis through long-term contracts and transparent suppliers' arrangements with government backing. This scenario provides for commercial fuel banks, fuel leasing and subsequent spent fuel take-back, as well as commercial offers to store and dispose of spent fuel.

2. Developing and implementing international supply guarantees with IAEA participation. Different models should be investigated, notably with the IAEA as guarantor of service supplies.

3. Promoting voluntary conversion of existing facilities to multilateral nuclear approaches, and pursuing them as confidence-building measures, with the participation of NPT non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon States, and non-NPT States.

4. Creating, through voluntary agreements and contracts, multinational, and in particular regional, approaches for new facilities based on joint ownership, drawing rights or co-management for front-end and back-end nuclear facilities, such as uranium enrichment; fuel reprocessing; disposal and storage of spent fuel (and combinations thereof). Integrated nuclear power parks would also serve this objective.

5. Expansion and development of a nuclear fuel cycle with stronger multilateral arrangements - by region or by continent - and on the basis of broad international cooperation

In July 2005 Russia will sponsor an international conference on multilateral technical and organizational approaches to the NFC in the context of strengthening the non-proliferation regime. We hope that this conference will give further impulse and content to ElBaradei's initiative, including with regard to:

- development of a system of international nuclear fuel supply guarantees for NPPs and research reactors (RR);
- secure handling of spent fuel, including its storage and reprocessing;
- application of nuclear fuel enrichment and reprocessing technologies.

While there are no absolute supply guarantees, we nonetheless believe it possible to consider offering guarantees for supplying nuclear fuel to NPPs and research reactors of the service recipient-countries with the IAEA being a part of this process.

The Russian Federation attaches paramount importance to the programme of technical assistance and cooperation in the IAEA activity. Over a course of years our country has actively cooperated with the IAEA in implementing numerous projects seeking effective use of applied nuclear technology in areas that are important for developing the economies of the Agency's member States.

In the past few years Russia has considerably expanded its participation in projects, namely in projects dealing with nuclear unit safety, radiation security and safety of transportation and radioactive waste management.

Assistance in training national personnel and conducting scientific research in the interested IAEA member States is one of the most important elements of technical assistance within the IAEA framework. Such participation involved supplies of Russian equipment, instrumentation and materials and training of experts at the domestic institutes and enterprises.

The Russian Federation is assisting the NPT developing countries in building accelerators and neutron generators; it also supplies radiography units, gamma-ray treatment equipment, liquid nitrogen production units, ionizing irradiation sources, and other equipment. We are willing to look into the possibility of cooperating in building low- and medium-power reactors, including mobile NPPs with long-life no-reload operation. These NPPs could be run and fully controlled by a supplying State, which would lift all concerns over transfer of technology to countries that are not yet capable of maintaining such plants on their own. Today, Russia is ready to proceed with the construction of a 70 mW offshore nuclear power plant capable of both producing energy and desalinating water.

As we see it, there should be a differentiated approach to export supplies of nuclear reactors. Therefore, requirements applicable to such supplies should vary.

The reactors based on different technologies pose danger of a different degree in terms of non-proliferation regime. As we all know, the VVER, as well as BWR and PWR reactors are considered to be safest.

The Russian Federation is an active participant in the Global Partnership. The country successfully implements dozens of projects related to the disposal of nuclear submarines and improvement of physical security of nuclear facilities. The process of preparing the conditions necessary for the implementation of surplus weapon-grade plutonium disposal programme in Russia is underway. To our mind, the work completed is highly effective in terms of strengthening global non-proliferation regime.

Russia is actively participating in the IAEA programme to establish regional international training and demonstration centers for reprocessing and storage of nuclear waste resulting from applying nuclear methods for medical, scientific research, and industrial purposes. Since 1999, in the framework of this programme, Russia holds annual regional IAEA demonstration courses for the CIS and Eastern European countries. During this period the courses have extended to the representatives of almost all countries of the region.

Russia has elaborated and put in place a sophisticated national legislative and normative framework for handling radioactive materials which allows to reliably ensure their transportation security and meets all IAEA requirements.

We are in favor of strengthening the regime governing such materials transportation, adopted by the international community. However, we consider that it should not result in artificial barriers which are often incompatible with universally recognized norms of international law.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a key element, a guarantee of the constantly expanding international cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. Its unique structure is designed to be used for many decades to come and is perfectly fit for solving long-term problems facing the mankind.

Russia stands ready to further cooperate with the States parties to the Treaty in solving these problems with the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

We are going to cover the matters of safety and security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources in a separate statement.

