2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Main Committee III

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 11 August 2022, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Denissen ..... (Netherlands)

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22-12614 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Focused exchange of views (*continued*)

Nuclear science and technology and development

1. **Mr. Masykur** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, said that the Group had been closely following the discussion in the Committee and would like to highlight its position. In that regard, he drew attention to recommendations 65 to 83 of the working paper submitted by the Group (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.26).

2. **Ms. Jáquez Huacuja** (Mexico) said that the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should emphasize that it was the first one that was taking place since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to create greater coherence and contribute to breaking down silos in the multilateral work of the United Nations, it was important to highlight that the application of nuclear science and technology to projects in areas such as energy, human health, food production, water management and environmental protection contributed considerably to the achievement of 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

3. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy should not be seen as separate from other complex issues that might be considered more political. The current Review Conference should recognize that the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology, were mutually reinforcing and should be implemented simultaneously. The Chair should take into account the recommendations contained in the working papers submitted by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative and other interregional bodies, the conclusions of which had been agreed by consensus among various regions and sectors and could therefore form the basis of consensus for the final document of the Conference.

4. **Ms. Mustafa** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her delegation stressed the inalienable right of States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to obtain and use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and the need for the balanced and non-discriminatory implementation of article IV of the Treaty. The Syrian Arab Republic supported the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to ensure the transfer of nuclear technology to States parties for development purposes and appreciated the role of the Agency's technical cooperation programmes in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries, especially in areas related to medicine, electricity, water management and other industrial applications, and in strengthening nuclear safety and security capacities.

5. Her country emphasized that assistance to developing countries should be strengthened and looked forward to the implementation of national projects and IAEA programmes. In that regard, the Syrian Arab Republic had hosted in-country training activities as part of IAEA technical cooperation programmes and would welcome the opportunity to do so again. It had also participated in regional technical cooperation programmes and had ratified the Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology in 2018.

6. Her country rejected the imposition of any political or economic restrictions on technical cooperation or assistance provided by IAEA to States parties, as that contravened the provisions of the IAEA statute and the Treaty. The Syrian Arab Republic also condemned the illegal, inhumane and unilateral coercive measures imposed on it and on other countries by Western States for political purposes, which hindered access to technical assistance for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly in the areas of health care and cancer treatment, adversely affecting their peoples' lives. The Committee's report should call on States parties to the Treaty to cease illegal, illegitimate and unilateral coercive measures against other States parties, as they undermined the exercise of the inalienable right to access technical assistance and equipment for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and ran counter to the Treaty. Moreover, in the 2030 Agenda, States were strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impeded the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. The fact that some States parties had violated their commitments under the Treaty by imposing such unilateral coercive measures was an issue that must be taken seriously by the Review Conference.

7. The Syrian Arab Republic was deeply concerned that Israel had acquired nuclear material and technology and the know-how to develop nuclear weapons with the support of the United States and other nuclear-weapon States. That was especially concerning given that Israel had not acceded to the Treaty and was the only State in the region that had refused to support the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Her country therefore called on all States parties and IAEA to comply

with the provisions of the Treaty, without exceptions or selectivity; to prevent any transfer of nuclear technology and material to Israel; and to compel that country to accede to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and subject all its facilities to IAEA comprehensive safeguards, in accordance with the Treaty.

8. **Mr. Hikihara** (Japan) drew attention the proposed language for the final document of the Review Conference contained in the working paper on the enhancement of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology submitted by his country (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.44/Rev.1), in particular the parts concerning enhancing accessibility to nuclear science and technology; opportunity for nuclear application in wider areas; and education and public communication. In the context of education and public communication, his delegation reiterated its support for the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses, an initiative of the United Kingdom and the United States.

9. **Mr. Balouji** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country recognized the important role of developed countries and IAEA in assisting developing States parties in the use of nuclear science and technology. Nuclear knowledge-sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries sustained and enhanced those countries' scientific and technological capabilities and contributed to their socioeconomic development. Furthermore, technical cooperation and nuclear technology contributed significantly to meeting energy needs; improving human health, including in the area of cancer therapy; combating poverty; protecting the environment; developing agriculture; managing water use; and optimizing industrial processes. Those activities contributed to achieving the objectives set forth in article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

10. His delegation requested that recommendations 74 and 81 contained in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.26, in particular, be included in the final document of the Review Conference.

11. **Mr. Tawe** (South Africa) said that article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty reaffirmed the inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The demand for nuclear power and the application of nuclear technology continued to increase. The inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology was at the centre of developing countries' development efforts, especially when it came to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. That right was part of the grand bargain at the heart of the Treaty and was critical for its continued relevance.

12. In its final document, the Review Conference should reiterate its support for the action plan contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, in which States parties had agreed, inter alia: to respect each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses; to facilitate and reaffirm the right of States parties to participate to the fullest possible extent in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology; to facilitate the transfer of nuclear technology and international cooperation in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty; and to eliminate undue restrictions inconsistent with the Treaty.

13. The Review Conference should call for continued efforts to ensure the fullest implementation of article IV (2) in relation to the undertaking made by States parties to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information, as well as the further development of applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in non-nuclear-weapon States, with due consideration of the needs of developing countries, particularly towards their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Conference should reaffirm that nuclear security should not be a precondition for access to nuclear science and technologies for peaceful uses. The Conference should note that the Treaty must be implemented in all its aspects, without prejudice, and that no aspect should be more strictly enforced or require stricter implementation than any other.

14. The Review Conference should reaffirm the leading role of IAEA in the development and promotion of nuclear and nuclear-derived technologies through international cooperation and that, working together with IAEA, member States would be able to harness benefits accruing from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a manner consistent with the IAEA motto, "atoms for peace and development". The Conference should also reaffirm that the technical cooperation programme of IAEA, as the main vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, should continue to be formulated and implemented in accordance with the statute and guiding principles of IAEA and in accordance with the decision of IAEA policymaking organs. The Conference should reject any attempts to deny nuclear science and technology to countries, especially developing countries, under the pretext of non-proliferation measures that fell outside of the IAEA verification system. The Conference should call for the resourcing of IAEA for the exchange of nuclear capacity and capabilities to be sufficient, predictable and assured and to give preferential treatment to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, taking the needs of developing countries, in particular, into account. In addition, the Conference should reaffirm its support for the IAEA nuclear

applications laboratories, which provided support, technical cooperation and capacity-building to member States through cutting-edge research that identified solutions to challenges that threatened livelihoods.

15. With regard to nuclear energy, his delegation supported the recommendations made by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties. Furthermore, South Africa recommended that the Review Conference reaffirm that each State party to the Treaty had the sovereign right to define its national energy policies, including fuel cycle policies, in accordance with its national requirements and its rights and obligations under the Treaty. Multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, under the auspices of IAEA as well as other regional and multilateral forums, should be consensus-based, economically viable, sustainable, non-discriminatory, predictable and transparent. The Conference should reaffirm the right of each sovereign State to choose nuclear technology that was appropriate to its needs and economically viable.

16. South Africa supported the inalienable right of all States parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, as stipulated in article IV, which was one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. States should exercise caution in giving effect to article IV of the Treaty and not seek to reinterpret or restrict that inalienable right. South Africa opposed any proposal that would impose conditions on access to peaceful uses, as that would contravene the letter and spirit of the Treaty.

17. **Ms. Muller** (Switzerland) said that her country commended the central role and leadership of IAEA in permitting global scientific and technical cooperation and in promoting civilian nuclear applications and technologies. The Agency's activities in that area were crucial for implementing article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and helped countries to achieve their national development objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals. That aspect had been highlighted by the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges. The Review Conference should encourage all States parties to continue efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Agency's technical cooperation programme.

18. Switzerland believed that a sustained dialogue among States parties helped to improve access to peaceful uses, to raise awareness of how nuclear technologies could address development needs and to identify new opportunities for assistance and cooperation in peaceful uses. Switzerland therefore supported the recommendations contained in the working paper on facilitating dialogue to support enhanced peaceful uses cooperation as envisioned under article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46/Rev.1). In addition, Switzerland drew attention to the working paper entitled "Recognizing the IAEA's seven pillars in the context of article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" (NPT/CONF.2020/ WP.69), including the proposed text for the final document of the Review Conference contained therein. Those seven pillars were based on existing safety standards and security guidance. The Conference should encourage all States parties to recognize them in all circumstances, including in situations of armed conflict.

19. **Ms. Weinberg** (Germany) said that her country was committed, without reservation, to the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to peacefully make use of nuclear energy, science and technology in line with IAEA verification standards. Contrasting views existed on nuclear power generation. While power generation based on nuclear fission was an inherent right under the Treaty, it was not a policy priority that was universally shared. In the view of some States parties, including Germany, nuclear power could not be a sustainable strategy to combat climate change. At the same time, Germany strongly supported non-power applications of nuclear science and technology. The potential for international cooperation and cross-fertilization in that regard remained to be fully explored and further developed.

20. As non-power applications of nuclear energy improved the lives of people around the world, Germany continued to contribute to such applications in fields such as health, environmental protection, water, food and agriculture. Those applications included techniques to improve food safety and to boost agricultural output through better pest control. They also contributed to the protection of water resources and the environment through the treatment of industrial wastewater and the study of groundwater resources. In the area of health, the use of radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, including the treatment of cancer, saved lives. Germany commended and supported the invaluable work of the technical cooperation programme and Peaceful Uses Initiative of IAEA as effective means to spread the benefits of nuclear technology globally. Her delegation also believed that nuclear technology could contribute in many ways to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Germany was a major extrabudgetary donor to IAEA programmes and had contributed substantially to the modernization of the IAEA nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf,

Austria. Together with South Africa, Germany co-chaired the Friends of the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project, which promoted the renovation of the laboratories.

21. Germany strongly supported the role of IAEA in advancing nuclear safety standards and security guidelines, which were essential also for non-power applications. Germany called on States parties that had not yet done so to accede to and implement the relevant conventions in that regard.

22. Germany was continuing its considerable investments in international cooperation on long-term, application-oriented research on fusion technology. Germany hosted one of the world's leading fusion research projects, Wendelstein 7-X, and participated, as a State member of the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project in France. Germany also commended the work of IAEA on nuclear fusion.

23. Nuclear science also played a role in physics research, which provided a foundation for advancements in applications that promised to provide future benefits. Germany hosted the German Electron Synchrotron, one of the world's leading centres for accelerator physics. Its research reactor in Munich was one of the most powerful and advanced neutron sources and renowned for applied research. Germany was also the largest contributor to the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

24. Germany was committed to preserving, developing and sharing its knowledge and expertise in nuclear science and technology, and its technical expertise related to the decommissioning and safety aspects of nuclear facilities, waste management, and the interim storage and final disposal of radioactive waste. To meet that objective, Germany would pursue education, training, research and international cooperation.

25. **Ms. Francis** (Australia) said that her country had benefited from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for almost 70 years. Nuclear science and technology had made it possible to manufacture nuclear medicines, investigate the origins of disease and address environmental challenges, including water sustainability, climate change and pollution.

26. Australia had a long history of supporting international peaceful use initiatives. To date in 2022, it had provided millions of dollars in extrabudgetary contributions to IAEA. That funding had supported important projects, including the Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) project, the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and the ReNuAL project. Given the wide-reaching benefits of nuclear science and technology, it was important that its vital role in international development be highlighted in the final document of the Review Conference.

27. With respect to specific suggestions for the text of the final document, Australia welcomed the inclusion of language from the sections on peaceful uses in the working paper submitted by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.10) and the working paper submitted by the Vienna Group of Ten (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.3/Rev.1). Australia also supported the proposal on the facilitation of a sustained dialogue contained in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46/Rev.1.

28. Australia underscored the importance of the IAEA technical cooperation programme as a major mechanism for the fulfilment of States parties' obligations under the third pillar of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Much of the contribution of Australia to the technical cooperation programme had been made through its constructive participation in the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training in Nuclear Science and Technology for the Asia and Pacific Region. Since its establishment in 1972, the Regional Cooperative Agreement had provided an effective framework for regional development. Over 170 technical cooperation projects, 650 training courses and 4,500 expert lectures had been delivered in key areas such as human health, agriculture, radiation safety and environmental monitoring.

29. Regional nuclear science and technology programmes were particularly effective at delivering lasting development outcomes. Australia therefore reaffirmed the importance of the continued delivery of actions 51, 52 and 53 of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference. Promoting the engagement of women in nuclear science and technology was also key to the implementation of the third pillar of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Australia supported that through the delivery, in partnership with IAEA, of an annual Women for Nuclear Science Education and Communications training programme, which was part of a continuing education programme for women teachers and science communication professionals. Equality and the empowerment of women were crucial for achieving development objectives. Her delegation therefore called for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women across all disarmament and peaceful use activities, including in the implementation and review of the Treaty. Australia supported the working paper entitled "From pillars to progress: gender mainstreaming in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons"

(NPT/CONF.2020/WP.54), which set out clear, practical measures that could be taken in that regard, and requested that its recommendations be reflected in the final document of the Review Conference.

30. **Mr. Gil de la Serna** (Spain) said that his delegation supported the right to the peaceful use of nuclear applications, underlined the contribution of nuclear technology to the development of States and the well-being of its citizens and assumed its commitment under article IV (2) of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The use of nuclear technology and its contribution towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals constituted a great achievement of the Treaty. In that context, the central role of IAEA and its Technical Cooperation Fund should be recognized.

31. His delegation gave particular attention to nuclear applications in the area of health, and the response of IAEA to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic through the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative was proof of their potential. The new IAEA Rays of Hope cancer treatment programme was a response to a major public health need in developing countries and merited the support of States. Given the contribution of nuclear technology towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it was necessary to ensure greater coordination between institutions, including within the international development system. In that context, his delegation supported initiatives such as the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses and the proposals and conclusions included in working paper NPT/CONF.2020/WP.36, submitted by the European Union.

32. The question of gender in relation to all three pillars of the Treaty was a priority for his delegation. The Review Conference should support initiatives to bridge the gender gap within the field of nuclear technology, including through the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, as well as through initiatives to ensure a gender focus in the area of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, in line with the proposals made in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.54, which his delegation supported.

33. **Prince** Saud bin Bader bin Saud **Al-Saud** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country underscored that the Non-Proliferation Treaty granted States parties the inalienable right to develop, produce and benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. States parties also had the right to use national wealth to utilize such energy in a safe and secure manner. That had encouraged many countries to accede to and comply with the Treaty. Saudi Arabia appreciated the important role played by IAEA and valued efforts and initiatives to develop peaceful applications of nuclear energy in all areas and to transfer related knowledge. Saudi Arabia supported capacity-building and the enhancement of nuclear research and development for the creation of solutions to global challenges; as a safe and sustainable source of clean, environmentally friendly energy; for the investment of national wealth; and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. Saudi Arabia affirmed that any interpretation of the Treaty that sought to prevent the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes contravened its provisions and purposes. In that regard, his delegation called on all States parties to comply with their obligations under the Treaty.

35. **Ms. Alexander** (United Kingdom) said her country welcomed the efforts of IAEA to highlight that nuclear science and technology played a key role in tackling global challenges, particularly through its work on the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Kingdom hoped that the Review Conference would emphasize the important role played by nuclear technologies across a range of sectors and issues, not least in achieving the Goals. Two particular issues should be highlighted as part of the discussion on nuclear science and technology for development: efforts in the context of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses initiative and the role of nuclear technologies in tackling climate change.

36. The United Kingdom was grateful for the leadership of the President of the Review Conference and the IAEA Director General in promoting dialogue on peaceful uses and the successes and remaining challenges under that third pillar of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Global consultations on peaceful uses had taken place in person in Nigeria and South Africa, and online during the pandemic. Those events had brought together policymakers, technical experts and IAEA to discuss the barriers that continued to prevent States parties from enjoying the benefits of peaceful uses. The outcomes of those conversations had formed the basis of a new effort, the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses initiative. The Sustained Dialogue should provide a forum for collaboration and cooperation between States parties, IAEA and development organizations. The Sustained Dialogue would be used to include new voices and perspectives; drive global awareness of how nuclear technologies could address development challenges; and identify new opportunities for assistance. The United Kingdom hoped that the initiative would make an important

contribution to the use of nuclear science and technology for development.

37. The Review Conference should recognize the contribution that nuclear technologies could make to climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation. While not all countries wished to pursue nuclear power, it was important to acknowledge the key role that nuclear power and emerging technologies such as advanced small modular reactors could play in supporting collective net-zero ambitions. At the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, IAEA had been able to showcase the role of nuclear power in the mitigation of and adaptation to the climate crisis. The United Kingdom would work with various stakeholders to promote swifter progress on climate change and deliver on the commitments undertaken by the Conference of the Parties.

38. **Ms. Gómez Sardiñas** (Cuba) said that her delegation reaffirmed the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, as provided for in article IV of the Treaty. Cuba highly valued the application of nuclear technologies in areas such as health, food security and the environment, which were essential for the implementation of her country's National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period up to 2030.

39. Her delegation attached particular importance to technical cooperation with IAEA. Decades of such cooperation had brought about significant advances for Cuba, such as the introduction of hybrid technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer; the development of grain varieties for food and pharmacology; the conduct of studies for the development of new radiopharmaceuticals; and the use of irradiation technology as a sterilization method in the food and health sectors. A legal and regulatory framework, as well as radiation protection services, had been developed following the good practices recommended by IAEA.

40. Her country had benefited from national and regional projects developed in collaboration with IAEA. Cuba made its capabilities available to other States members of IAEA, in particular within the region, providing experts and facilities to contribute to the introduction of nuclear technologies. It also collaborated actively in the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean.

41. However, the unilateral and unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against her country made it increasingly difficult for the IAEA secretariat to acquire scientific equipment for the implementation of projects in Cuba. Her delegation reaffirmed its conviction that IAEA technical cooperation should be free of political conditions, as established in its statute. That was extremely important for developing countries and small island developing States, such as Cuba. The least developed countries had the right to participate fully, on a legal and fair basis and without hindrance or discrimination, in the transfer of equipment, material and scientific and technological information in the nuclear field for peaceful purposes, in order to achieve the greatest benefits in the context of sustainable development.

42. Restrictive measures adopted unilaterally by certain States parties to the Treaty, which hindered the peaceful use of nuclear energy by other States parties, should be lifted. In that regard, her delegation supported the proposal to include in the report a paragraph based on agreed language from paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 70/1, which had been adopted by consensus. In that paragraph, States were strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impeded the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. Her delegation reiterated the relevant substantive recommendations for incorporation into the final document of the current Review Conference contained in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.26.

43. **Mr. Philippens** (Netherlands) said that nuclear science and technology had many applications, including in the areas of energy, food safety, medical treatment and space exploration. Such applications could play an important role in addressing the most pressing challenges related to human and animal health, water management, agriculture, food safety, nutrition, energy security and environmental protection, thereby contributing to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and climate goals. The Netherlands had benefited from the application of nuclear technology and science in many ways.

44. The Netherlands acknowledged the role of IAEA in accelerating and expanding the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity and the role of the Agency's technical cooperation programme in supporting its member States in that regard. The Netherlands always paid its IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund contribution on time and in full, and it called on other member States to do likewise. The

Netherlands also regularly provided extrabudgetary contributions in support of the important work of IAEA, including the ReNuAL project; the Nuclear Security Fund, including IAEA missions to Ukraine; and, through the Peaceful Uses Initiative, the COVID-19 test kit programme. In the light of the need for more gender diversity and inclusivity in the field of nuclear science and technology, the Netherlands supported the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme.

45. The IAEA technical cooperation programme was not the only mechanism for sharing nuclear technology and science. States parties could undertake their own efforts to improve traditional and non-traditional partnerships with, inter alia, academia, the private sector and international, regional and national development agencies. All such partnerships should observe the highest levels of nuclear safety, security safeguards and export controls.

46. Access to the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology should be expanded to the greatest practicable extent, including through incorporation into national development plans. Furthermore, development partners should work together to advance the recognition of nuclear science and technology as tools for development within development and climate frameworks. The Netherlands supported dialogue to foster knowledge about the potential of nuclear applications to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. His country noted, in that regard, the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses initiative and would follow its development with interest.

47. With regard to the final document of the Review Conference, he drew attention to the concrete proposals on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy contained in paragraphs 66 to 77 of document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.10; the working paper entitled "Promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear technology: a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" submitted by the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative to the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/WP.22); recommendations 34 to 39 of the working paper submitted by the Vienna Group of Ten (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.3/Rev.1); and the working paper entitled "Atoms for heritage: peaceful use of nuclear techniques for heritage science" submitted by Brazil, Egypt, France and the Netherlands (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.63). Lastly, the Netherlands recalled the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges, held in 2018 in Vienna.

48. **Ms. Lazaro** (Philippines) said that in the final document of the Review Conference, the Conference must, first, welcome the significant contribution of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to sustainable development and to the advancement of scientific knowledge; second, recognize the role that nuclear technology could play in mitigating and adapting to the consequences of the climate crisis; third, recognize that peaceful uses had an important role to play in an inclusive and sustainable global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; fourth, recognize that there was a fundamental need to enhance the transfer and sharing of nuclear technology and knowledge with developing countries; and, fifth, encourage greater participation of women in the nuclear sector, including in science and engineering, education, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and diplomacy.

49. The successes and valuable contributions related to the third pillar of the Non-Proliferation Treaty afforded many reasons to celebrate. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy continued to provide the tools to deepen understanding of the world. In particular, isotopic techniques enabled the study of climate, the water cycle and nutrient uptake, and the tracing of toxins and pollutants in the environment; offered solutions for addressing the world's most pressing challenges, including climate change, pandemics, cancer and pollution; and could ensure food, water and energy security. Nuclear applications supported developing countries, such as the Philippines, in their pursuit of development objectives and contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Goals related to ending hunger, promoting good health and well-being, ensuring the availability of clean water and taking action to combat climate change.

50. The COVID-19 pandemic had caused an unprecedented crisis, reversing fragile development gains and setting back much of the progress that had been made towards the achievement of the Goals. Many people from the developing world had fallen into poverty, were in danger of going without food, water or access to health care, were unemployed or were living in insecure conditions. In that regard, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be considered a critical component of inclusive and sustainable global recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic. More than ever, capacity-building was important in order to ensure that developing countries had the right tools to build back better.

51. The Philippines continued to support continued IAEA technical assistance to member States as well as the Agency's valuable research and development work in various nuclear applications.

52. **Mr. Holubetz** (Austria) said that his country was a firm supporter of the inalienable right to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy. However, nuclear power was not compatible with sustainable development and was not a viable option to combat climate change. The right of States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes included the right to select the uses that each considered to be most appropriate. Scientists, policymakers and industry actors had varying views on the potential contribution of nuclear power to combating climate change. Climate change issues were not covered by the Treaty and were discussed in other United Nations forums. Therefore, his delegation opposed the inclusion in the final document of the Review Conference of any language concerning the possible contribution of nuclear power to climate action. Views on that matter diverged significantly, and any such language would distract from the matters discussed by the Committee on which consensus already existed.

53. Nuclear technologies related to food and agriculture, public health and environmental science would remain important. Technical cooperation was integral to his country's activities in the nuclear science domain. Although it retained reservations about nuclear power generation, Austria fully supported activities in the broader area of non-power applications of peaceful nuclear science and technology. It also continued to support the ongoing modernization of the IAEA nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, Austria, under the ReNuAL project.

54. **Mr. Maks** (Sweden) said that his delegation supported the inalienable right of State parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to undertake research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, provided that the non-proliferation and verification requirements under the Treaty were fully respected and the highest levels of safety and security could be maintained. His delegation attached great importance to the application of nuclear technologies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and recognized the key role of IAEA in assisting State parties to do so. Sweden had also been, and would continue to be, a strong supporter of IAEA technical cooperation activities through the Peaceful Uses Initiative. It also supported the Rays of Hope programme, particularly as it related to the early diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer in low- and middle-income countries, thus demonstrating its commitment to gender equality and feminist foreign policy.

55. Sweden continued to provide extrabudgetary support to the NUTEC Plastics project of IAEA to address and counteract the threats of microplastics to marine life. It also reiterated its support of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses initiative, and looked forward to exploring collective work towards shared goals.

56. Sweden, while respecting the right of all States to decide on their own energy mixes, also recognized the important role of nuclear power in the fight against climate change. More details of the positions taken by Sweden were contained in the working paper submitted by the Vienna Group of Ten (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.3/Rev.1), and he hoped that its recommendations would be considered by the Committee.

57. **Mr. Fremy** (France) said that the development of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies must be accompanied by the implementation of a robust non-proliferation framework and the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. Such standards would enable and facilitate the development of those uses. France had detailed its offer of intergovernmental support in the working paper entitled "Framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation" (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.27). Access to peaceful uses of nuclear technologies should not be to the detriment of the respect of export control regimes, which were indispensable in combating proliferation. His delegation supported IAEA action, which, by way of its technical cooperation programmes, contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensured the safe and responsible development of nuclear technologies. Assistance in the purchase of equipment and materials was a major component of that cooperation, and training and capacity-building for States in the use of nuclear technologies enabled mastery of them over the long term.

58. France was making innovative contributions to promoting training under the aegis of IAEA and as indicated in the working paper entitled "CB2I: a new capacity-building international initiative to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy" (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.65). His delegation acknowledged the various non-energy applications of nuclear technologies in fields such as health, agriculture, nutrition, water management, cultural heritage and ocean pollution. The working paper submitted by France entitled "Actions taken by France to promote the responsible development of peaceful nuclear and radiation applications under the third pillar of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.40) identified 22 national actions undertaken in support of the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Nuclear technologies had also made essential contributions to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and his delegation thanked IAEA for its assistance to countries during the pandemic.

59. Nuclear technologies were indispensable in strengthening the capacities of States to detect and combat zoonotic diseases, and his delegation called on all relevant international organizations, such as IAEA, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme, to coordinate their efforts to provide assistance to States for those purposes.

60. His delegation encouraged knowledge-sharing as described in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.63. Technical cooperation programmes should be deployed at a regional level and benefit from synergies. France supported the IAEA Director General in recent initiatives such as the Rays of Hope programme, the ZODIAC initiative and the ReNuAL project, as well as the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme to promote the work of young women in all nuclear-related fields. His delegation highlighted the role of the safeguards regime, which allowed for safe and responsible development of peaceful uses of the atom, and recognized the success and impact of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

61. France was one of the countries engaged in the construction of facilities for final nuclear waste storage, and its Industrial Centre for Geological Storage had been conceived as a place to store high-level waste produced by nuclear activities. Such initiatives were essential to ensuring the sustainable use of nuclear technologies for energy and non-energy purposes. France was particularly committed to ensuring that waste sources from industry and the medical sector were properly protected. While supporting nuclear technologies, France also sought to promote the use of alternative technologies to limit the production of nuclear waste, and the use of low enriched uranium in place of high enriched uranium, wherever possible.

62. **Ms. Cho** Jeongin (Republic of Korea) said that it was necessary to promote international cooperation in harmonizing the legal frameworks of innovative nuclear technologies, such as small modular reactors. To that end, the Republic of Korea was participating in a relevant programme, led by the United States, to promote capacity-building projects in countries introducing such reactors. Her delegation recognized the central role of IAEA in nuclear science and technology and welcomed its various efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and overcome the global challenges faced in the application of nuclear technologies, such as those introduced through the ZODIAC initiative and the NUTEC Plastics project. Her country had made extrabudgetary contributions to those projects and would continue to support them.

63. **Mr. Warden** (United States of America) said that his delegation reaffirmed its support to the critical role of IAEA in promulgating nuclear science and technology for peaceful uses, including the Agency's technical cooperation programme and its Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications. With the extrabudgetary funding provided through the Peaceful Uses Initiative, to which the United States had contributed, his delegation would welcome language in the Committee's report that highlighted that Initiative. The report should also explicitly reflect some of the new, cross-disciplinary work of IAEA that demonstrated the potential of peaceful uses in helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

64. Deserving of special mention were the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, the sterile insect technique, the ZODIAC initiative, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Network programmes in Africa and Asia, the NUTEC Plastics project, the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, the Rays of Hope flagship programme and several projects under the IAEA technical cooperation programme, and their support of work to achieve various Sustainable Development Goals. The United States was proud to have provided extensive support to the IAEA nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, Austria, and its important work.

65. His delegation suggested that the Committee's report specifically note the importance of promoting diversity and gender inclusiveness in the field of nuclear science and technology. The United States had contributed to the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and would welcome the inclusion of a specific reference to that Programme in the report.

66. **Ms. Horoşanu** (Romania) said that her country firmly supported the inalienable right of all State parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty. Romania continued to support the IAEA technical cooperation programme through projects relating to nuclear safety and security while also offering regular in-kind contributions and sharing know-how and best practices, thereby contributing to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme. Romania had developed a wide spectrum of activities in nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes in recognition of the major role they played in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the areas of human health, energy, industry, nuclear radiation safety and food and agriculture.

67. The Institute for Nuclear Research Pitești in Romania was part of the IAEA-designated International Centres based on Research Reactors (ICERR) programme in the fields of education and training and joint research and development projects. Romania had also announced its intent to build, in partnership with the United States, a small modular reactor using innovative clean technology, thus taking a bold step in advancing climate action and ensuring access to clean energy in a critical part of Europe.

68. Her delegation wished to emphasize the recommendations contained in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46/Rev.1, and hoped that all parties could work together to improve access to peaceful uses of nuclear technology through a sustained dialogue.

69. **Mr. Schelstraete** (Belgium) said that nuclear knowledge-sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries were important enablers of socioeconomic development, and the activities of IAEA in the field of technical cooperation contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Belgium supported the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, paid its target share in full and made additional extrabudgetary contributions, including to the IAEA nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, Austria. Moreover, the Nuclear Research Centre of Belgium had been officially designated part of the ICERR programme of IAEA.

70. Intergovernmental agreements on civil nuclear cooperation could be a useful tool for expanding the benefits of nuclear applications. They contained a clear identification of the objectives and reciprocal obligations of partner countries, thus providing legal certainty and helping to streamline the export control process. His delegation supported the framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.27.

71. Belgium also supported facilitating dialogue to support enhanced peaceful uses cooperation, as envisioned in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46/Rev.1. That initiative would set up a flexible framework whereby new voices and perspectives would be taken into account. Raising global awareness on the many applications of nuclear technologies would help to identify new opportunities for assistance in the area of peaceful uses and thus help to address development challenges.

72. The Review Conference should request States to apply the Understandings of the Zangger Committee, which were designed to implement the obligations under article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. States should be encouraged to adhere to the common Guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

73. Lastly, Belgium would continue its investment in nuclear technology. His country was one of the major producers of medical radioisotopes, which played a paramount role in cancer diagnosis and therapy. In 2018, the Nuclear Research Centre of Belgium had begun the construction of a multi-purpose hybrid research reactor for high-tech applications. That new reactor would be high-performance and versatile and would carry out material research and nuclear science research. Particular attention would be given to the transmutation of radioactive waste and the production of new radioisotopes for medical purposes.

74. **Ms. Unzaga** (Argentina) said that Argentina, through its National Atomic Energy Commission, had developed an advanced nuclear programme for peaceful purposes within a strong institutional framework. Research, development and innovation activities in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy had been undertaken in collaboration with the State, universities and industry. Several projects, programmes and activities had been implemented, including a small modular reactor project; new and known radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals had been developed for medical purposes; and human and technological resources in the area of radiotherapy had been strengthened. The first proton therapy centre in Latin America and the Caribbean was being built in Argentina.

75. The Review Conference should recognize the importance of nuclear energy in promoting economic and social development and reaffirm the vital role of IAEA in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Argentina called on States to strengthen the Agency and its technical cooperation programme. It was important for the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, a fundamental tool for implementing the technical cooperation programme, to have assured, predictable and sustainable resources. It was also important to actively promote the involvement of women in the technical cooperation programme to reduce the gender gap and strengthen a gender perspective in the nuclear field. More than 50 per cent of IAEA national, regional and interregional technical cooperation projects were led by women. Given the cross-cutting nature of gender on the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Argentina hoped that the Conference would echo the issues set out in the joint statement on gender, diversity and inclusion, delivered by Canada on behalf of a broad group of States during the general debate (see NPT/CONF.2020/SR.7, paras. 1 to 5).

76. Argentina acknowledged the efforts made by IAEA in launching its ReNuAL project. Those efforts provided concrete opportunities for nuclear applications, enabling developing countries to use nuclear technology to fight cancer, increase efficiency in agriculture and conduct

research on human and zoonotic diseases. The contributions made within the framework of the Peaceful Uses Initiative should also be recognized.

77. **Ms. Hasan** (Iraq) said that the IAEA technical cooperation programme was one of the main purposes of the Agency and her delegation stressed the priority of IAEA activities in the area of technical cooperation for the benefit of her country and other developing countries. The programme was important for capacity-building and technology transfer for different nuclear implementations, particularly in areas such as health, agriculture, management of water resources, and for the development of reactors. It was also helpful for rehabilitating infrastructure so that countries could benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and science and promote sustainable socioeconomic development.

78. Her delegation called on IAEA and its member States to promote their technical assistance for the peaceful use of nuclear energy through international cooperation. The Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference had stressed the need to respect the decisions of non-nuclear-weapon States regarding their access to nuclear energy in the future for peaceful purposes, with no restriction and through international cooperation. Her delegation wished to see such a position reflected in the final document of the 2020 Review Conference.

79. **Mr. Li** Sui (China) said that the peaceful use of nuclear energy had unique advantages and an important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and addressing global climate change. The final document of the 2020 Review Conference must call on States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to make full use of the role of the Treaty in service of global peace and development and in addressing non-proliferation and peaceful uses in a balanced manner such that cooperation in nuclear science and technology would become a new highlight of the Treaty.

80. In 2022 some countries had, under the guise of non-proliferation, drawn ideological lines, broadened the concept of national security and used the multilateral export control regime as a geopolitical tool. The final document of the Review Conference must appeal to all countries to avoid politicization of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to oppose the artificial construction of technical barriers and the application of excessive restrictions, not to use the pretext of national security to suppress the industries of other countries, and to maintain normal international cooperation.

81. China attached great importance to the role of nuclear energy in building a clean, highly efficient system of energy sources. The Hualong One generation III reactor, researched and developed by China, was now being put into commercial operation domestically and abroad. As of June 2022, China had 54 nuclear power units in operation with an installed capacity of 55.81 GW. There were also 24 units approved or under construction, with an installed capacity of 27.46 GW.

82. China was also actively promoting diverse applications of nuclear technology in non-energy fields to build out the industrial system for such uses, with an annual production output approaching RMB 700 billion. China was also utilizing nuclear technologies to dispose of medical wastewater and waste material, thus making unique contributions to the work of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic.

83. Through IAEA channels for technical cooperation, China was expanding technical assistance to other developing countries, and had already become the second-largest donor to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Fund, with cumulative contributions of nearly $100 million as of August 2022. Over the years, China had hosted more than 4,000 visitors arriving from other developing countries for the purpose of continuing education and training in science and technology, and had sent more than 3,000 experts to developing countries to provide services. China had also signed agreements with more than 30 countries for intergovernmental cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and thus was contributing to the sharing of the dividends of nuclear energy and promoting social and economic prosperity in a mutually beneficial and practical way.

84. His delegation hoped that the final document of the Review Conference would clearly reflect the right of all countries, especially developing countries, to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and would encourage developed countries and IAEA to increase assistance and support to developing countries according to their actual needs and afford them preferential treatment.

85. **Ms. Heppell-Masys** (Canada) said that Canada strongly supported efforts to foster innovation in nuclear science and technology as a means to address various ongoing global challenges, including the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, energy insecurity and ongoing development needs. For example, during the pandemic Canada had supplied radioactive sources globally to be used for sterilizing equipment when personal protective equipment was in scarce supply.

86. Canada was also pioneering the deployment of small modular reactors, including working with bilateral partners and IAEA to develop and harmonize the regulatory process to permit such reactors to be built safely, securely and efficiently around the globe. The deployment of small modular reactors and advanced

reactor technologies represented an important opportunity to contribute greatly to combating climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

87. Her delegation requested that the Review Conference encourage all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to explore opportunities to broaden nuclear engagement with newcomer countries, especially those seeking to combat climate change, gain energy independence, access nuclear medical applications and achieve the Goals. Such opportunities would include contributing to the IAEA technical cooperation programme, which provided vital support to newcomer and developing countries seeking to exploit nuclear energy. Recognizing the importance of expanding access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, Canada was a significant financial contributor to the programme. Canada also made regular financial contributions to IAEA efforts to facilitate safeguards by design guidance for small modular reactors and advanced reactor technologies.

88. Her delegation recognized that engaging in nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes came with significant responsibility and requested that the Review Conference affirm that States engaging in nuclear cooperation should do so in accordance with the guidance and best practices of multilateral export control regimes. Furthermore, States should adhere to the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation in their exploitation of peaceful nuclear applications. A comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol represented those standards and were a key component of enabling the research and development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

89. To achieve that purpose, innovation should also be applied to develop new technologies which could improve the effectiveness, accessibility and applicability of nuclear safety and security measures, to include tackling new challenges to physical protection and computer security for nuclear facilities and materials. At the same time, the importance of innovation lay not only in the technologies, but also in the diversity of the people included in the discussion. Canada was a vocal supporter of efforts to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the nuclear field and was a proud contributor to the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme. Canada also strove to engage young women and girls in pursuing education and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Her delegation encouraged the Review Conference to recognize the essential role of women in the final document.

90. Ensuring the participation of diverse communities also included more participation by indigenous peoples. Incorporating their perspectives and communities into discussions surrounding nuclear science, technology and development ensured that a variety of viewpoints were integrated into all aspects of nuclear science and technology applications.

91. **Mr. Camara** (Brazil) said that scientific cooperation was fundamental to progress in all areas of contemporary society. Unfortunately, the rewards derived from scientific applications were often limited to a small group of countries. On the basis of the experience of Brazil as a recipient and a provider of technical assistance, his delegation suggested that the Review Conference tackle several challenges.

92. First, countries should find means to address the lack of technical capacity in developing and least developed countries and devise and implement technical cooperation programmes. There should be renewed efforts to train personnel to be entrusted with such programmes in those countries. Second, the allocation of the resources of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund should be revisited. The highest priority should be given to the least developed countries. Third, cooperation should be recipient-oriented, not donor-driven. Recipient States should always have ownership of technical cooperation programmes, regardless of the amounts provided by the donor countries. Fourth, without prejudice to the requirements of nuclear safety, security and safeguards, there should be no restraints on the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which was an inalienable right. Lastly, the centrality of IAEA, in light of article I of its statute, should be upheld. His delegation recognized complementary initiatives but maintained that IAEA was in the best position to coordinate efforts in the relevant areas given its expertise, experience and legitimacy.

93. Brazil had developed techniques to combat tropical disease by the sterilization of mosquitos through low radiation and had made those techniques available to IAEA and partner countries. More details of the positions taken by Brazil could be found in the working paper submitted by his delegation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.72), which he hoped would contribute to the report of the Committee.

94. **Ms. Quintero Correa** (Colombia) said that many delegations had spoken about the importance of the transfer of knowledge, technology and equipment for peaceful uses, as one of the fundamental pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and about the enormous contribution of nuclear applications to sustainable

development. Several delegations had even delivered detailed accounts about specific applications and their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. States had recognized the work of IAEA and the importance of its technical cooperation programme and Technical Cooperation Fund, aware that it was through technical cooperation that the transfer of knowledge and nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes was materialized.

95. The statements made by delegations corroborated the importance of ensuring that the IAEA technical cooperation programme had sufficient, secure and predictable resources, as well as the need to redouble efforts in that regard. The final document of the Review Conference should reflect the need to strengthen the implementation of article IV of the Treaty.

96. Colombia reiterated the importance of promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education in the field of nuclear applications and requested that it be taken into account in the different projects of technical cooperation programmes. A gender approach should also be included in disarmament and non-proliferation policies and programmes, as well as in the promotion of nuclear sciences and technologies and their applications for development.

97. **Mr. Hustveit** (Norway) said that nuclear technology applications could play an important role in promoting peace, health and prosperity and in tackling climate change, and his delegation encouraged the Review Conference to recognize the role of nuclear energy and technology in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. IAEA played an essential role, including through its technical cooperation programme, in assisting States to build human and institutional capacities, including regulatory capabilities, for the safe, secure and peaceful application of nuclear science and technology. His delegation also hoped that the Conference would recognize the role of the Peaceful Uses Initiative as an important mechanism to expand the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Norway had recently allocated $1 million to the Initiative and was supporting the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme to increase the number of women working in nuclear-related fields.

98. Norway supported efforts by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to work together to improve access to the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology through the sustained dialogue described in document NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46/Rev.1. The focus of the dialogue was on bringing in new voices and perspectives, strengthening global awareness of how nuclear technologies could address developmental challenges and identifying new opportunities for assistance in the area of peaceful uses.

99. His delegation also wished to highlight the recommendations contained in the working paper submitted by the Vienna Group of Ten (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.3/Rev.1), which covered topics relevant to several clusters dealt with by the Committee.

100. **Mr. Balouji** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that with regard to article X of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, his Government would never agree to any proposal that would challenge, constrain or put conditions on the sovereign right of a State party to withdraw from the Treaty. That inherent right had been an integral part of the compromise that had led to the conclusion of the Treaty. Article X was devoid of any ambiguity: it recognized the unconditional right of any State party to withdraw from the Treaty in exercise of national sovereignty and also created a lawful mechanism for a State party to terminate its Treaty obligations and withdraw from the Treaty if it decided that its supreme interests were jeopardized by extraordinary events relevant to the subject matter of the Treaty. The determination of the existence of such extraordinary events was at the full discretion of the withdrawing State. Extraordinary events relevant to the subject matter of the Treaty included, inter alia, non-compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations; violation of the obligation to facilitate the exchange of nuclear technologies and civil nuclear cooperation; military attacks or threats of attack on the safeguarded nuclear facilities of a non-nuclear-weapon State; and the application of unilateral sanctions against a non-nuclear-weapon State party in a manner which impeded the exercise of the right of that State party to develop nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes.

101. Full respect for the letter and spirit of the Treaty in all its aspects would better incentivize non-nuclear-weapon States to remain parties to the Treaty. Therefore, the most effective way to prevent future withdrawals from the Treaty was to ensure the full implementation of all of its provisions without selectivity, double standards or discriminatory approaches.

102. **Mr. Maks** (Sweden) said that effective and transparent export controls were important for facilitating the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as set out in article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Export control regimes also contributed not only to the enhancement of international peace and security by preventing the diversion of sensitive materials, technologies and equipment to end users of concern, but also to the implementation of non-proliferation obligations under the Treaty without hampering peaceful, legitimate nuclear trade and cooperation.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.