

**Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
August 1-26, 2022
United Nations, New York**

**U.S. Statement to Main Committee III
Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy**

Madam Chair,

Congratulations on your appointment and know that you have our delegation's full support.

The United States welcomes this opportunity to recognize the Treaty's great success in providing a framework that supports the widespread benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science, and technology ("peaceful uses") in a safe, secure, and safeguarded manner. We believe that a strong nonproliferation regime is necessary for enabling robust cooperation on peaceful uses.

Russia's brutal, unprovoked, and unjustified war against Ukraine directly challenges the international rules-based order that the NPT supports and undermines nuclear safety and security. Russia's reckless actions in Ukraine, which continue, severely undermine nuclear safety and security. They put at risk Ukrainian nuclear and radiological facilities and degrade IAEA safeguards verification. They represent a brazen attempt by a nuclear-weapon state to take over nuclear facilities belonging to a non-nuclear weapon state. We acknowledge the IAEA's extraordinary efforts to carry out its mission to secure and safeguard nuclear materials and facilities despite these challenges.

We also wish to highlight the IAEA Director General's "Seven Indispensable Pillars," which encapsulate global principles of nuclear safety and security and underscore the dangers caused by Russia's actions. Those actions undermine the Article IV right to pursue peaceful nuclear energy. In that regard, we are very pleased to join with other countries in issuing a working paper

recommending that this Review Conference acknowledge and promote the principles in the Seven Pillars.

Madam Chair, the United States wishes to reaffirm, as we did in the P5 Joint Statement on Nuclear Energy, our undertaking in Article IV of the NPT to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The United States firmly believes that nuclear energy will continue to be an important part of our national energy mix and that it will in the future play a major role in combating climate change globally. An increasing number of countries view nuclear power as an important option for meeting growing energy demands without carbon emissions. Developing a nuclear power or technology program necessitates the development of the infrastructure that will allow a country to deploy, operate, and regulate nuclear technology according to the highest standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation. In this context, the United States strongly supports increasing access to forthcoming small modular reactor and other emerging reactor technologies as they have the capacity to exponentially increase the number of states which can utilize nuclear power.

In addition to supporting the IAEA's important work with such countries, the United States also emphasizes and supports nuclear infrastructure development through a number of bilateral programs and activities supported by the Departments of Energy, State, and Defense, and our Nuclear Regulatory Commission. An example is our work with partners under the "Foundational Infrastructure for the Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology" -- or FIRST -- initiative.

Nuclear science and technology can also play a vital role in serving the world's health and agricultural needs and in helping countries achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are pleased to work with the U.S. Congress to make annual extra-budgetary contributions in support of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Program and other IAEA peaceful uses activities. The United States is the largest financial supporter of the IAEA's work in developing and demonstrating new applications of nuclear science and technology and in

supporting their deployment. Since its creation in 2010, we have provided over \$144 million to the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), along with additional voluntary and in-kind contributions totaling over \$441 million, to support the Agency's peaceful uses programs. Since its initial pledge in 2010 to contribute \$50 million over 5 years to the PUI, the United States has twice renewed that pledge, most recently in November 2020. Thanks to partner contributions, the IAEA has received a total of over \$210M in PUI contributions since 2010, supporting IAEA projects in more than 150 IAEA Member States. We continue to encourage other countries and organizations to contribute as generously as possible to this important initiative.

Nuclear science and technology are critical to the timely diagnosis and effective treatment of cancer. We recognize the decades-long effort by the IAEA to collaborate with international organizations, health authorities, and health care providers globally, delivering training and equipment and helping countries around the world establish effective national cancer control systems. We are pleased to announce a new contribution of €10 million by the U.S. Department of Energy to IAEA Technical Cooperation projects, including funding for the Program of Action for Cancer Therapy and for projects associated with the IAEA's Regional Cooperation Agreements for Africa and for Latin America and the Caribbean.

As applications of nuclear science and technology are deployed to address global challenges such as climate change and cancer, the United States is committed to creating new avenues to broaden cooperation in peaceful uses. The United States and the United Kingdom, joined by other NPT Parties, have submitted to this Committee a Working Paper describing a new "Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses." This new dialogue will seek to advance international awareness of the important contributions of nuclear-related technologies to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, promote greater acceptance of its benefits, and identify new opportunities to expand assistance and cooperation on these applications. This dialogue will respect, complement, and seek to enhance the pivotal role of the IAEA in making peaceful uses available to address development needs.

We hope the dialogue will highlight the successes of ongoing peaceful uses efforts and create opportunities for future success through engagement with expert practitioners and coordination with other relevant institutions. We thank the NPT States Parties that have joined us in bringing a concrete proposal for advancing peaceful uses cooperation to the table in this meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chair.