

**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. talking points for Main Committee III
Cluster 2: Nuclear Safety and Related Matters**

Madam Chair,

The United States believes that nuclear safety is paramount, and that the widespread adoption of high nuclear safety standards is an essential factor in ensuring continued access to peaceful nuclear technology.

Since 2011, the international community has recommitted itself to the vital goals of nuclear and the IAEA has played a leading role in that regard. The IAEA's efforts continue to focus attention and resources on improving safety standards worldwide, and the United States is proud to be a major contributor to these efforts.

Furthermore, the United States places great value in a robust global nuclear security regime and the IAEA's central role. Effective nuclear security measures help states to prevent, detect, and respond to unauthorized acts involving nuclear and radioactive material. Effective nuclear security reinforces NPT goals by helping prevent proliferation, particularly to non-state actors and by limiting the risks of nuclear terrorism.

A strong nuclear security framework, grounded in effective nonproliferation policies and comprehensive export controls, increases confidence that peaceful nuclear technology is being used as intended and is thus essential to advancing the benefits of nuclear energy. This confidence in turn supports the NPT's goal of the "fullest possible exchange" of peaceful nuclear technology.

Programs to build capacity for the responsible use of nuclear technology, including nuclear security, are an investment in and sustain the ability of all states to take advantage of nuclear science and technology for agriculture, health, industry, and development.

We are a major supporter of nuclear safety and security cooperation with more than forty (40) partners in every region of the world, and we are leading efforts to promote implementation of international conventions on nuclear safety, security, and liability, including the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Seen as a whole, we believe nuclear safety and security constitute a lifeline to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. When deployed under the highest standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation, nuclear energy will play an essential role in combating climate change while advancing peace and promoting sustainable development worldwide.

The United States is also a strong supporter of the IAEA Director General Grossi's Seven Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security as outlined in his statement to the IAEA Board of Governors meeting on March 2-3, 2022. We believe all States Parties should recognize the Seven Pillars as an important reflection of the essential elements of nuclear safety and security, in all circumstances, including in situations of armed conflict. The Seven Pillars reflect long-standing nuclear safety and security best practices and standards that the IAEA collected into one organizing theme and that they contribute to promoting States Parties' continued benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and applications. We believe these indispensable principles should be reflected in the final outcome document.

Madame Chair,

The United States places high priority on developing new frameworks for peaceful nuclear cooperation that reduce proliferation risks, including the IAEA Fuel Bank and several other similar fuel supply agreements. We have always been advocates for mechanisms allowing for safe and reliable access to nuclear fuel, and the contributions of these mechanisms should be noted in the final document.

Madame Chair,

The Russian military's activities and attacks at and in the vicinity of Ukrainian nuclear and radiological facilities contravene IAEA General Conference resolutions and pose a grave threat to the safe and secure operation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

The Russian military presence at Zaporizhzhia prevents the operators and the Ukrainian authorities from fulfilling their nuclear and radiation safety and security international legal obligations and from implementing relevant IAEA safety standards and security guidance.

We call on the Russian Federation to withdraw its military forces and other unauthorized personnel from Zaporizhzhia and its surroundings so that the operator and Ukrainian authorities can resume their sovereign responsibilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders and the legitimate staff can conduct their duties without interference or unacceptably harsh working conditions. We also strongly support the efforts of the IAEA to support nuclear safety, security, and safeguards at ZNPP and at the nuclear facilities in Ukraine.