

**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 4: International Cooperation**

Madam Chair,

The United States notes that Article IV of the NPT specifically calls for NPT States Parties to promote international cooperation towards expanding the benefits of the NPT.

We believe that it is important to highlight the role of international cooperation in promoting expanded access to peaceful uses.

We underscore the plan for launching a “Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses” as an example of international cooperation to promote the realization of the benefits of Article IV, but we have given this body enough food for thought in our working paper and side event, so I won’t go into it in any detail now.

Rather, I would draw attention to the role of the IAEA in fostering international cooperation through its programs of support, including the new platform initiated by DG Grossi for coordinating the Agency’s support for countries interested in deploying advanced and Small Modular Reactor technologies. As part of this, I note the IAEA interregional Technical Cooperation project on Small Modular Reactors, which engages a large number of IAEA Member States as both donors and recipients in the joint exploration of safety, security, and safeguards for this promising new technology.

I also note U.S. programs of bilateral and regional engagement in infrastructure and capacity-building to support nuclear power in countries embarking on a national program in this area. In particular, I draw attention to our program on the

“Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of SMR Technology” or FIRST. Partners in this project work collaboratively to facilitate the development of a safe and secure national infrastructure for civilian nuclear reactors, especially SMRs. The program provides the foundation for partner countries to take advantage of advanced nuclear technologies and upcoming innovations in reactor design to meet their energy security and climate goals and to do so consistent with the highest international standards of and guidance for safety, security, and nonproliferation.

The FIRST program is supportive of, and complementary to, the IAEA's Milestones Approach, and uses it as a baseline for infrastructure development and nuclear security support. This approach is an important benchmark designed to ensure the sustainability and credibility of a country's nuclear program and to facilitate financing of a proposed reactor project.

Madam Chair,

I have already mentioned that the United States places high priority on new frameworks for supporting peaceful uses cooperation while reducing proliferation risks and that we are strong advocates for mechanisms allowing for safe and reliable access to nuclear fuel. I repeat my request that the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank hosted by Kazakhstan, the American Assured Fuel Supply, and other mechanisms for fuel supply be recognized in a report from this committee.

I also want to support the recommendation from Japan to include in a report from this committee a reference to continuing IAEA-led efforts to share the lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, thereby building on the transparency Japan has shown in its efforts to address the effects of that accident.

Madam Chair,

The United States remains committed to broadening access of NPT States Parties to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science, and technology, and to fostering cooperation with other States Parties and relevant international organizations to that end. We respect each country's choice to develop a civil nuclear power

program pursued in a manner consistent with the highest international nuclear safety standards, guidance for nuclear security, and in compliance with the State's obligations under the NPT, including those relating to safeguards.

The responsible use of nuclear technology is key to building the public support that is critical to the success and sustainability of its implementation, and to the confidence needed for international cooperation and commerce to thrive.