

Statement by the United States: Main Committee III

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

Statement by: Savannah Blalock, U.S. Department of Energy

**New York
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Madame Chair,

As we look back on the last 50 years of the NPT, we take stock of the many benefits the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science, and technology have brought to all States Parties, as laid out in Article IV of the Treaty. The United States has long been a supporter of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and already you have heard many ways in which the United States has contributed to peaceful uses over the past review cycle. You also have heard how the United States is seeking to expand access to peaceful uses, noting it is a critical benefit that can help states meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals and enable progress worldwide.

In our statement yesterday, you heard that the U.S. Department of Energy recently allocated €10 million from surplus IAEA LEU Fuel Bank funds to the IAEA for peaceful uses purposes. In 2007, the United States, through the Department of Energy, gave \$50M to the IAEA to establish the IAEA LEU Fuel Bank. In January 2020, the IAEA informed the United States that it did not anticipate needing all the donated funds to support the Fuel Bank and requested guidance on how best to reallocate the remaining funds. After hearing in numerous regional peaceful uses workshops about the need for nuclear technology to help alleviate challenges in developing regions, the U.S. Department of Energy determined the best way to reallocate the remaining funds was to provide money for peaceful uses assistance. As a result, the Department of Energy is allocating the surplus €10 million to three specific peaceful uses projects at the IAEA: 1) the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology Research in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL); 2) the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development, and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA); and 3) the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). We hope that those countries with whom we have engaged on peaceful uses matters over the past few years will see this funding as the United States taking another step to meet your identified

needs. The United States aims to provide solutions to the challenges you have highlighted; providing peaceful uses assistance under Article IV of the NPT is one way in which we can move from words to actions.

This is not the only step DOE has taken over the past few years to expand access to peaceful uses. The U.S. Department of Energy launched a series of bilateral peaceful uses projects in partnership with U.S.-based medical societies in June 2020. DOE provided \$1.5 million over three years to the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and the Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) to facilitate access to nuclear and radiological medicine in Africa. At a U.S. Department of Energy funded workshop in Nigeria in 2019, African leaders shared a need for capacity building assistance for nuclear and radiological medicine. DOE responded to this specific need by issuing grants to RSNA and SNMMI. RSNA is developing a Global Learning Center in Tanzania to improve radiology education and patient care, which includes tailored curriculum and hands-on training for a selected cohort of medical professionals. Similarly, the Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging is delivering capacity building activities for nuclear medicine professionals in Ghana. Additionally, RSNA received another grant for \$250,000 to implement a workshop later this year to build connections and capabilities in the western hemisphere.

Finally, the Department of Energy recently provided over \$2.1 million to 19 IAEA Technical Cooperation Projects. This funding will support projects in the Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Dominica, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zambia. These projects will provide support in areas ranging from human health to environmental management, helping achieve economic and social development goals. It will also support the IAEA's role in facilitating the peaceful nuclear cooperation envisioned by the NPT.

In closing, we reiterate the United States' support for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, recognizing the inalienable right of States Parties to develop peaceful uses in conformity with their nonproliferation obligations, and reaffirming our undertaking to facilitate the fullest possible exchange in this area. The Department of Energy's approximately \$15 million in peaceful uses commitments outlined here are just a few examples of this U.S. commitment. We remain devoted to furthering the many benefits of the peaceful uses of energy, science, and technology under the parameters of the NPT.

Thank you, Madame Chair.