

**Statement by the United States on
Cluster 3 Specific Issues - Peaceful uses of nuclear energy and other provisions
of the Treaty**

**First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Eleventh Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Delivered by Ambassador Adam Scheinman

**Vienna
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Chair,

I wish to make a number of points under this agenda item.

Concerning the strengthening of the review process, for which I'll have more to say in a later session, I fully agree with those States Parties who note that the meeting of the Working Group surpassed expectations, with States Parties engaging in interactive dialogue. I know that the U.S. delegation personally found this exercise valuable, and it demonstrates that States Parties are committed to the NPT and to improving the process we have.

I share the disappointment expressed by many that we did not achieve consensus on concrete proposals. In particular, on measures related to improving transparency and accountability, such as through structured discussion of national reports.

For the purposes of this statement, I'd like to highlight a number of suggestions captured in the U.S. working paper that we believe have broad support and therefore would be welcome adjustments.

First is eliminating duplication among Main Committees and Subsidiary Bodies. We are flexible on the best way to do this and support the recommendations in the Chair's Working Paper #34.

By making those debates more efficient, we free up time for exercises in transparency and deeper engagement. As noted, we are prepared to contribute to that process by presenting our own national report.

Second, our working paper emphasizes the benefits of identifying and formalizing best practices, including early selection of Chairs, a more permanent role for the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, and the continuation of regional consultations. This too is reflected in the Chair's paper, #34.

Third, our working paper suggests reforming the role of the Preparatory Committees by making it their primary task to make recommendations to the RevCon on issues and proposals of greatest interest to States Parties, including areas of focus where more work can help achieve the desired consensus.

Chair,

Concerning Article X: Since the DPRK's announced withdrawal from the NPT in 2003, four Review Conferences have considered ways to discourage similar action by other State Parties in the future. We were pleased that the draft final document in 2022 endorsed a set of principles and elements related to withdrawal that should be preserved. Although Russia blocked consensus on the final document, we believe there remains broad support for those elements.

We encourage NPT Parties to consider actions that reinforce these elements, in particular in their cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and associated safeguards-related conditions. These bilateral obligations reinforce and protect the shared interests of all NPT Parties.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the role of nuclear science and technology in tackling a global challenge that affects each of our countries – climate change. The United States has acknowledged again and again the need for urgent action to mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its impacts. We are particularly concerned in this regard for countries in the developing world where new, dangerous weather patterns threaten agricultural production and national economic well-being. In this regard, I wish to reaffirm our commitment to broadening access of NPT States Parties to peaceful uses, including technologies that help combat climate change, and to fostering cooperation with other States Parties and relevant international organizations to that end.

In addition, the United States believes nuclear power plays a crucial role in addressing the challenges of climate change and addressing energy deficits in developing countries. We are committed to continuing to lead the development of new nuclear power technologies, including our collaboration on next-generation nuclear technologies for the future deployment of advanced reactors.

In this regard, I note that the United States supports a range of bilateral and regional assistance to countries seeking to cooperate with the United States on small modular reactor technology, including through capacity building programs, infrastructure assistance, and integrating safeguards and security into new reactor designs. These activities are supplemental to our support for IAEA activities, including the Agency's Milestones Approach, which enables a sound development process for a national nuclear power program that prioritizes the highest standards of safety, security, and safeguards.

Thank you.