



## **11<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

### **Main Committee III Statement**

4 May 2026

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#### **Chair**

Throughout this review cycle, we have heard the growing interest from NPT States Parties in accessing the benefits of nuclear science and technology. The NPT is the essential framework for doing this – securely, safely, and with safeguards.

In this Committee, we have the task of reviewing progress under the NPT's third pillar and outlining priorities and actions to take forward. There are plenty of ideas on the table. Australia has been pleased to contribute through working papers from NPDI and the Vienna Group of 10 which offer constructive guidance for this Conference.

The discussions in this Committee traverse some of the NPT community's most interesting and consequential multidisciplinary work. These include powerful examples of how international cooperation advances shared



prosperity, sustainability, and development through contributions to public health, agriculture, industry, and environmental objectives.

Australia reaffirms the right of all States Parties to develop, research, produce, and use nuclear energy for safe and peaceful purposes should they choose to do so, in full conformity with Articles I and II of the NPT.

Chair

We commend the IAEA's support for States Parties to access the benefits of nuclear science and technology, including through its Technical Cooperation Program. Australia is proud to support this and other programs, including substantial extrabudgetary support [*AUD\$27m since 2022*], through mechanisms like the Australian Nuclear Science Support Program. We urge all States Parties to ensure the IAEA is fully resourced to fulfil its mandate.



## Chair

Many of the people working on the implementation of Pillar 3 are not in this conference room – they are our scientists, our lab technicians, our radiologists, and more. They comprise a dynamic, growing group of people committed to peaceful uses. We know that diversity – in gender, age, and expertise delivers results.

Australia was privileged to host a diverse group of women from our region at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in Sydney this year, with the IAEA, for the Lise Meitner Program to boost women's leadership in the nuclear sector. The linkages created through this program will endure.

In 2026 Australia marks twenty years of safe operation of the OPAL multi-purpose research reactor. OPAL underpins Australia's nuclear science capability, enabling life-saving medical radioisotope production and world-leading research, while its strong safety record reflects Australia's commitment to the safe, secure use of nuclear science and technology.



Australia is doing its part to contribute to nuclear safety and security. ANSTO has pioneered a breakthrough technology – Synroc – a safe, secure and sustainable radioactive waste treatment. Synroc is a practical contribution to nuclear safety - a stable, long-term solution for radioactive waste and reducing risks to people and the environment.

Australia continues to fulfil its responsibilities as a major and reliable uranium supplier. Through our network of nuclear cooperation agreements, we promote the highest standards of safety, security, and non-proliferation, including the broad application of IAEA safeguards and the Additional Protocol.

Chair

Nuclear safety and security underpin international confidence that nuclear technologies and materials can be shared and applied without risk to people or the environment.

It is important that this Conference reaffirm the IAEA's central role and leadership on nuclear safety and security.



We echo the comments of IAEA Director General Grossi in stressing the paramount importance of adhering to the seven pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security, including during conflict.

Australia remains gravely concerned by the unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine and its control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. We commend the IAEA for its vital role in the safety, security and safeguarding of Ukraine's nuclear power plants - the IAEA's presence in Ukraine has been critical in providing independent, impartial reporting to the international community. We reiterate that the most effective protection of Ukraine's nuclear infrastructure is an immediate and complete withdrawal of all Russian military and unauthorised personnel, and the full return of all nuclear facilities to Ukrainian control.

Chair,

The right to peaceful uses is strongest when exercised in full harmony with the Treaty's other obligations. This harmony enables cooperation, builds confidence, and



sustains the trust that underpins international nuclear collaboration.

Effective export controls play an important enabling role for peaceful nuclear cooperation, while safeguarding against proliferation risks and maintaining confidence in the international nuclear framework. This review conference should reiterate the value of effective export controls in Treaty implementation.

Chair

Effective implementation of the NPT depends not only on the actions and engagement of States Parties, but also on the strength, transparency, and credibility of the Treaty's review process. We have a responsibility to ensure we continue to incrementally improve the effectiveness of our processes.

Thank you