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of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Main Committee III: Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

Statement by

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Thank you, Chair,

Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In our national capacity, I would like to highlight several key points.

Czech Republic remains a strong and consistent supporter of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as one of the fundamental pillars of the NPT. We are convinced that nuclear science and technology play an indispensable role in addressing global challenges such as climate change and energy security. Nuclear energy continues to form a cornerstone of our national energy mix, contributing significantly to decarbonisation efforts and long-term energy resilience.

At the same time, we stress that the benefits of peaceful uses can only be fully realized if they are pursued in a safe, secure and peaceful manner. In this regard, the role of the IAEA and its verification regime remains irreplaceable.

Furthermore, we believe that robust and effective export controls represent a key component of the international non-proliferation system. Czech Republic fully supports the nuclear export control regimes, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee. Therefore, we call upon all States to adhere to the guidelines of these regimes, allowing States to facilitate transfers of nuclear technology only for peaceful uses.

Chair,

Czech Republic is continuously providing its know-how, training and expertise, and making available its national infrastructure for training within the IAEA Technical Cooperation programme. We remain committed in advancing capacity building, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and sharing best practices. We actively contribute to the IAEA's activities, both financially and through in-kind expertise.

Czech Republic is strongly committed to collaboration with the IAEA on the national technical cooperation programme, where we participate in relevant regional and interregional projects. We cooperate with the IAEA in the preparation and implementation of so-called expert missions to support existing operations in the nuclear sector with technical knowledge or expert insight into specific issues or technical equipment addressing the key areas in Nuclear Safety, Radiation Protection and Nuclear Security.

Additionally, Czech Republic works closely with the IAEA under the framework of the Member State Support Programme to the IAEA safeguards and within the INSEP initiative of the US DOE. There, we contribute to various training courses and organize technical visits, workshops or webinars for newcomer countries. We believe that such assistance significantly contributes to the assurance for the international community of a State's commitment to meeting the highest standard of transparency and safeguards verification.

Chair,

In light of the current geopolitical situation, we must once again express our serious concern regarding Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine. The unlawful seizure and continued control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant represents a violation of international law. Russia's actions, including targeting of electrical sub-stations, shows disregard for the fundamental principles of nuclear safety and security. Such actions are unacceptable. They undermine the integrity of the global nuclear safety and security framework and set a dangerous precedent.

We fully support the IAEA's efforts to ensure nuclear safety and security in Ukraine, including its continued presence on the ground. Respect for the IAEA mandate and for the Seven Indispensable Pillars for nuclear safety and security in armed conflict and Five principles must be upheld without exception.

Chair,

Looking ahead, Czech Republic will continue to advance innovation in the nuclear field. We are in the midst of building our nuclear capacity for power production and R&D. We are currently preparing the construction of several additional reactors at our existing nuclear sites. In addition to that, Czech Republic is also preparing for construction of several Small Modular Reactors which will contribute to reliable low-carbon energy solutions. In line with that, we reiterate our commitment to the highest levels of safety, security and safeguards, and therefore we closely collaborate with many international partners such as the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Finland and many others.

In conclusion, Czech Republic reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the NPT and its three mutually reinforcing pillars. We remain determined to contribute to strengthening the Treaty's implementation and to promoting the responsible, safe and secure use of nuclear energy for the benefit of all.

Thank you, Chair.