

National Statement of Finland
11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Main Committee III, 4 May 2026

Statement by Head of Unit, Elina Martikka,
Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority of Finland

Chair,

Finland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I am pleased to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Chair,

It is the inalienable right of all Parties to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

For Finland, nuclear energy is a crucial part of our energy mix. Today, over 40% of our electricity is generated by nuclear power. On a per-capita basis, Finland ranks among the world's leading producers of nuclear power. Nuclear energy is an integral and cost-effective means for Finland to achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2035.

Chair,

Throughout our nuclear history, Finland has been forward-looking. Finland was the first country to conclude a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA in 1972. Today, we are preparing to become the first country to begin the final geological disposal of spent nuclear fuel. Operating license for the disposal facility is expected to be granted by the end of this year, with operations at the encapsulation plant starting in 2027. Earlier this year, we began constructing an electrically heated pilot plant for concept testing of an SMR for district heating, in our capital Helsinki. Symbolically, the test plant will be built inside a former coal power plant.

For Finland, advancing nuclear technology must go hand-in-hand with maintaining the highest levels of safety and security and in full compliance with IAEA safeguards obligations. Nuclear power enjoys high public acceptance in Finland. A strong independent regulator, ensuring highest level of safety, security and safeguards at all times, plays a key role in sustaining high level of public trust year after year.

The IAEA has a vital role in facilitating and expanding the use of nuclear technology throughout the world. Our experts participate actively in IAEA workshops and technical meetings with an aim to advance safe and sustainable use of nuclear technology.

Chair,

Promoting the responsible use of peaceful nuclear applications and broader accessibility to them is important for Finland. Finland highlights the ability of nuclear applications to deliver remarkable benefits in the fields of health, agriculture, climate change mitigation and sustainable development. The IAEA's flagship initiatives are a first-class demonstration of this. We recall the Final Declaration of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme in November 2024, which was adopted by consensus by all IAEA Member States.

Finland remains committed to sharing its expertise and is active in many international initiatives aimed at advancing disarmament and non-proliferation. Alongside our contributions to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, we partner with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) to strengthen nuclear safeguards in Africa through a European Commission-funded project. Finland regularly contributes to the IAEA Support Programme for Ukraine and provides additional support to Ukraine beyond the IAEA framework. Likewise, we support the IAEA in its aim to promote gender balance within the nuclear industry.

Chair,

Finland expresses its concern over potential implications of armed attacks against peaceful nuclear facilities. Such attacks pose a serious threat to nuclear safety and security and could result in radioactive releases with grave consequences within and beyond the boundaries of the attacked State.

Chair,

From early on, Finland has given great significance to the NPT and the broader framework around it as the core facilitators of nuclear technology and development. We will organize a side-event on Finland's Peaceful Nuclear Leadership on May 8th at lunchtime. We welcome you all to the event.

It is important to remember, that Pillar III of the NPT is a genuine success story. We believe that the entire Review Process would benefit from states sharing their own positive success stories in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you chair.