

**STATEMENT**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**  
**BY**  
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**MINISTER**  
**PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA**  
**AT THE**  
**MAIN COMMITTEE III**  
**THE 11<sup>TH</sup> REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY**  
**ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**NEW YORK, 27 APRIL – 22 MAY 2026**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group.

2. The Group aligns itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Indonesia and wishes to make the following remarks on this cluster.

3. The African Group reiterates the importance of respect for the inalienable right of States Parties to participate without discrimination in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as the right to collaborate, especially in the field of technological development. In this regard, the Group calls upon this Conference to firmly reject any restrictions on the exchange of equipment, materials or scientific and technological information required for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to reaffirm that such exchanges are a fundamental obligation under Article IV of the Treaty.

4. The Group reaffirms the inalienable right of States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the sovereign right to develop full national fuel cycle for peaceful purposes without discrimination. It is also important to state that it is within the sovereign right of each State to define its national energy policies, and any decisions on multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel cycles shall be made by consensus.

5. The Group remains deeply concerned about the ability of certain States that are not parties to the Treaty to obtain, in particular from some nuclear-weapon States, nuclear materials, technology and expertise to develop nuclear weapons or other nuclear activities that are not subject to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards regime. The Group strongly calls for the enforcement, without exception

or further delay, of the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of nuclear technology and materials to States that are not parties to the Treaty.

6. The African Group acknowledges that the responsibility for nuclear safety and nuclear security rests solely with each individual State. To this effect, any multilateral norms, guidelines or rules in the area of nuclear security should be pursued within the framework of the IAEA. The Group notes with deep concern that undue restrictions on exports of material, equipment and technology to developing countries for peaceful purposes persist; and emphasizes that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of non-nuclear-weapon States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The Group further underscores that nuclear security measures must be implemented in a manner consistent with States' rights under the Treaty and must not place an undue burden on developing countries seeking to advance their peaceful nuclear programmes.

7. The Group takes note of the emerging issues related to the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), including those associated with technology readiness, regulatory approaches, financing models, and infrastructure considerations. In this context, the Group emphasizes that the development and deployment of SMRs should not hamper, condition, or redefine Member States' access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nor create implicit expectations or new benchmarks that could disadvantage developing countries. The advancement of SMRs must therefore be pursued in conformity with obligations of the NPT and respective safeguards agreements, without prejudice to the inalienable rights of States Parties under Article IV of the NPT.

**Mr. Chair,**

8. The African Group calls upon all Member States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to refrain from any attacks on, or threats to attack, nuclear facilities – operational or under construction – devoted to peaceful purposes. The Group recalls relevant IAEA General Conference decisions as well as action 65 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan on this matter and expresses grave concern at incidents involving nuclear facilities, which constitute a serious threat to international peace, security and the integrity of the non-proliferation regime. The Group calls on this Conference to adopt clear and unambiguous language reaffirming the inviolability of peaceful nuclear installations.

9. The Group stresses that the IAEA is the sole competent authority responsible for the verification of the fulfillment of safeguards obligations assumed by States Parties under the Treaty and that the IAEA's comprehensive safeguards agreements are the universal standard for verification, with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear material and technology from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as its central role for nuclear technical cooperation.

10. The Group highlights that the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme remains the principal vehicle for supporting the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which should continue to be formulated and implemented in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the principle of non-discrimination. The Group expresses serious concern at the impact of current UN budgetary constraints on the effective implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme and calls for increasing the Technical Cooperation Fund target through sufficient, sustainable, adequate and predictable financing. It further calls for full implementation of all approved projects, including those currently unfunded, as a matter of equity and treaty obligation.

11. The African Group encourages the IAEA to continue and deepen its support to developing countries in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including through the IAEA's flagship initiatives. In this regard, the Group recognizes the indispensable role of the IAEA in assisting developing States Parties in planning for, making full use of, and scaling up the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. The Group calls upon development partners and the IAEA to ensure that technical cooperation activities are adequately resourced and that no approved project is left unfunded due to fiscal constraints that fall disproportionately on beneficiary States.

12. Finally, Mr. Chair, mindful of the complex environment in which this Conference convenes and heeding the President call for agility, openness and flexibility from all delegations, the Group reiterates the need for caution in thoroughly addressing the associated technical, legal and economic aspects, as well as the underlying political dimensions of the issue of assurances of nuclear fuel supply, and to stress the necessity to ensure that any further consideration of this issue is based on a coherent and comprehensive conceptual framework that adequately addresses the views and concerns of all States parties and that any proposal that eventually emerges in this regard is in full accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and takes into account the respective legal obligations of States Parties and the principle of non-discrimination.

13. Thank you.