



**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
National Statement for Main Committee 3
of the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

5 May 2026 | UNHQ, New York

As we heard from DG Grossi last week, the Peaceful Uses of nuclear energy are of profound and enduring importance to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). During a time marked by rising global energy demand and widening development disparities, the peaceful applications of nuclear stand at the heart of the credibility, relevance and overall success of the NPT. The UK's goal on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology is clear: to work with others to make sure that all States Parties can benefit from civil nuclear technology and for this technology to be used safely and responsibly, in a way that builds trust between countries.

Expanding access to the peaceful uses of nuclear depends upon the individual and collective ambition of States Parties. As set out in our Working Paper, "Good practice in international collaboration on peaceful uses and non-proliferation", the UK recognises that effective collaboration embraces partnerships between a wide and diverse range of stakeholders, including governments, regulators, international organisations, industry, academia, civil society and financial institutions with a shared goal. Such collaboration can also foster the development of a skilled and diverse global workforce capable of transforming dialogue into tangible delivery. We urge States Parties to strengthen international collaboration on peaceful uses to the benefit of everyone.

To support a greener future for all, the UK is investing boldly to achieve net zero and energy security, guided by a steadfast belief in responsibility, innovation and shared progress. As our Minister set out last week, we are delivering the largest expansion of civil nuclear energy in a generation. For example, landmark projects, such as Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C, alongside the development of our Small Modular Reactor programme, demonstrate our resolve to secure, clean and reliable energy for decades to come. Our investments in advanced nuclear fuels, including High-Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU) will help provide energy security at home and for our international allies through resilient supply chains, while our Nuclear Skills Plan will ensure the skilled and diverse workforce required. We are implementing the recommendations from the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce. These reforms will also be

vital in driving these projects through, ensuring projects are safe, on time and on budget. We encourage States Parties to streamline regulation and prioritise proportionate regulatory systems that facilitate cost-efficiencies and timely delivery of projects whilst upholding the highest standards of non-proliferation and maintaining public support for civil nuclear. By reviewing current regulation, future projects can be regulated and conducted more efficiently, with resources for peaceful uses more appropriately allocated.

At the same time, many States embarking on nuclear programmes for the first time are confronted by significant challenges. For this reason, the UK is working internationally, not to prescribe solutions, but to address barriers – in skills, regulation, finance and access to information. We do so in a spirit of partnership, through capacity building and practical initiatives that expand opportunity while upholding the highest standards of safeguards - balancing Article IV and Article III of the Treaty. We recognise that access to peaceful uses begins with confidence, capability and genuine choice. For example, the UK is actively supporting nuclear newcomers through initiatives like the Nuclear Dialogue series to build skills and strengthen institutions in Africa.

The UK is also working with the IAEA and Multilateral Development Banks to help unlock responsible and least-cost financing, grounded in strong governance - elements we address in detail in our joint Working Paper with France and the USA, “Meeting the Growing Demand for Peaceful Uses: Financing for Nuclear Energy, Science, and Technology to Support the Inalienable Right Under Article IV”. Because finance is not just about projects - it empowers people, regulators and enduring systems. We note the importance of early-stage and upstream financing to support the development of necessary expertise in civil nuclear. We underscore the importance of mobilizing adequate and diversified financing for nuclear energy projects, including through multilateral development banks and private capitals, as well as the need for developing innovative financial instruments.

The UK welcomes the growing engagement of international financial institutions in exploring pathways to support nuclear energy projects that meet robust environmental, social and governance criteria, and we consider that this evolution reflects a better understanding of the contribution of nuclear power to building economic prosperity. We also welcome recent initiatives by international financial institutions to engage on nuclear energy-related capacity-building, including: the cooperation framework agreed between the World Bank Group and the IAEA in June 2025. And we underline that financing strategies must encompass the development of competent regulatory authorities, independent technical support organisations and skilled workforces. We also note the importance of private sector participation in peaceful uses projects to de-risk the financial and regulatory challenges.

However, peaceful uses extends beyond power generation, offering powerful tools for food security, water management, health and climate resilience. Through the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses, we witnessed the transformative potential of collective endeavour: nearly 1,500 participants and more than 90 countries have translated ideas into actions and projects. Regional events in Paraguay, Thailand, Morocco and across Africa have focused on addressing common barriers. And as we learnt today at the UK's side event on Nuclear for Good, we are proving that meaningful access does not always require scale or significant cost. Sometimes it simply requires easily accessible information, committed networks and shared learning - models' that all States can adopt without delay. And we encourage other States Parties to do so, so that we may lower barriers to entry for developing countries.

As you heard in our US colleague's statement and our side event earlier this week, we are also proud to be launching the UK-US Accelerating Scientific Collaboration and Excellence in Nuclear Technology (ASCENT) initiative. ASCENT is designed to support countries at every stage of nuclear development, engaging an ever-broader range of partners to support the delivery of non-power projects while reinforcing the central role of the IAEA. We invite all States Parties review our working paper and to explore new avenues for international collaboration.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Technical Cooperation Programme also remains indispensable. The UK is proud to be a leading supporter of the Agency's work, including through assessed contributions, and extra-budgetary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund and Peaceful Uses Initiative, with over £25 million in extra-budgetary funding provided since 2022. Nevertheless, it is clear the IAEA cannot deliver the peaceful uses of nuclear applications alone. Growing strain on the Agency is evident in the expanding number of footnote-A projects and IAEA initiatives that require scaling. States Parties must step forward with renewed ambition to mobilize people, amplify resources and deliver long-term success in close partnership with the IAEA and in full adherence to the highest levels of safety, security and safeguards.

We also underline that safety is of unparalleled importance in securing access to peaceful uses. Safety, security, safeguards and export controls are not obstacles. They are essential enablers that build public trust and commercial confidence in nuclear technology. The UK will continue to champion robust regulatory frameworks, peer review mechanisms and universal adherence to international conventions. The UK encourages other States parties to accede to, implement and uphold these vital non-proliferation commitments to secure the continued expansion of peaceful uses.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the realities that have threatened this shared vision. The 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster continues to highlight the need for responsibility and international cooperation, and the international community will

once more need to come together with the EBRD to ensure the New Safe Confinement over Chernobyl is restored to its intended capacity and purpose.

Our ambitions are clear. We recognise that international collaboration on civil nuclear enhances the confidence of recipient States in delivering energy security and sustainable development, while remaining fully consistent with international nuclear governance norms. The UK seeks to remove barriers to entry without lowering standards; to open doors while safeguarding trust; and to extend opportunity while encouraging others to uphold their responsibilities. The UK is actively enabling more States to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. But alongside others, our choices can be transformational. Let us match our collective ambition with global action - by coming together to make the Peaceful Uses of nuclear energy a powerful driver of confidence and shared success that benefits the whole of the NPT, for decades to come and generations to follow.

Delivered by Danielle Cope