Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the NPT.

2. The Group’s detailed positions under this cluster are contained in the Working Papers presented to this meeting.

3. Promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the realization of “the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of this Treaty”, as stipulated in its article IV, constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. The Group strongly calls upon all States parties to the Treaty to fully respect this inalienable right and underscores that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting this right.

4. The Group reaffirms the importance of the right of States parties to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear
energy, as well as their right to cooperate among themselves, in particular in
the technological field, in contributing alone or together with other States or
international organizations to the further development of the applications of
nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, with due consideration for the needs
of the developing areas of the world.

5. The Group confirms that each country’s choices and decision in the field of
peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its
policies or international cooperation agreements and arrangements for
peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

6. The Group encourages the IAEA to continue supporting developing
countries in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in
particular through its technical cooperation programme, which is essential
for the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses.

7. We express our full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the
IAEA and strongly reject any politically motivated attempts by any State to
politicize the work of the IAEA, including its technical cooperation
programme, in violation of its Statute, as well as any pressure or interference
in the Agency’s activities which could jeopardize the efficiency and
credibility of the IAEA and the inalienable right of developing countries to
develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful
purposes without discrimination.

8. The Group stresses the need for the further development of the applications
of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in developing countries, which
contributes to the attainment of their respective national sustainable
development goals, and the full respect for their right to participate in the
fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

9. The Group underlines particularly the responsibility of developed countries to facilitate, to the fullest extent possible, the transfer, to developing countries, of nuclear equipment, materials, scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes.

10. 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 know-how to develop nuclear weapons. The Group strongly calls for the enforcement, without exception or further delay, of the total and complete prohibition, as stipulated in the Treaty, of the transfer of nuclear technology and materials to States that are not parties to the Treaty.

11. The Group stresses that the supply of source or special fissionable material, or equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material, to States that are not parties to the Treaty, significantly undermines the credibility and sustainability of the Treaty, and contradicts the agreed obligations and commitments on achieving its universality.

12. The Group reaffirms the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities - operational or under construction- poses a great danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the UN Charter and regulations of the IAEA. The Group recognizes the urgent need for a comprehensive multilaterally
negotiated instrument prohibiting attacks or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

13. The Group stresses that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including proposals for assurance of supply in response to the needs of interested States, shall fully take into account all technical, legal, political and economic complexities surrounding these issues, and be conducted through wide, integral, comprehensive and transparent multilateral consultations and negotiations. The multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle should be economically viable, sustainable, non-discriminatory, predictable and transparent under the auspices of IAEA, as well as other possible regional and multilateral forums.

14. The Group also stresses that any decision on proposals regarding multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle shall be made by consensus taking into account the interests of all member States, with the participation of all IAEA member States, and that any proposal from IAEA must be consistent with its statute, without prejudice to the inalienable right of States parties to the Treaty, if they so decide, to develop a full national nuclear fuel cycle, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty.

15. While reiterating the need to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes, the Group calls for effective implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste of the IAEA as a means of enhancing the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive waste on their territories.

Thank you.