

Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

11 May 2007

Original: English

First session

Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2007

New Zealand perspective on issues under cluster III

1. With reference to the Chairman's factual summary, insofar as it refers to nuclear energy and transport, New Zealand wishes to put on record the position it has already expressed in the Conference.
2. As a strong advocate of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), New Zealand recognizes the importance of full implementation of all three pillars of the Treaty: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses. It is only through equal implementation of each of these pillars that our shared objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world will be realized.
3. New Zealand acknowledges the right of all States parties to the Treaty to be able to develop research, production and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the Treaty.
4. While New Zealand has rejected nuclear power generation for itself, it recognizes the right of other States to make their own decisions in that regard. In doing so, however, it reiterates its belief that nuclear power is not compatible with the concept of sustainable development, given the long-term costs, both financial and ecological, of nuclear waste, and the risk of nuclear proliferation.
5. New Zealand firmly believes that IAEA must have all the tools necessary to provide robust assurances to the international community that nuclear activities undertaken by States are purely for peaceful purposes. The Additional Protocol is a key tool in this regard and forms the contemporary verification standard in the view of my delegation. As the contemporary verification standard, an additional protocol should also be a condition of nuclear supply. New Zealand continues to urge those States that have not yet done so to conclude an additional protocol with IAEA without delay.
6. It is in our common interest to ensure that peaceful uses of nuclear technology remain accessible to all States parties while at the same time ensuring that such technologies do not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
7. New Zealand is of the view that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle should be developed with due regard to the inalienable right of States parties



to the NPT to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in conformity with the NPT's non-proliferation provisions under Articles I, II and III.

8. At the same time, it recognizes that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle should be complementary to the primary non-proliferation instruments of effective and universal implementation of IAEA safeguards, including the Additional Protocol, and to effective export controls. Strengthening and implementing these primary instruments remains of paramount importance.

9. New Zealand attaches particular importance to nuclear safety, in particular to the strengthening of international cooperation with respect to the shipment of radioactive material. It is important that shipments of radioactive material adhere to the highest possible safety and security practices and that timely information of such shipments is provided. In that regard, New Zealand welcomes the positive engagement in recent years between shipping and coastal States on communication practices and looks forward to progress towards understanding and addressing concerns. We hope that further enhancements to mutual confidence, particularly through improvements to voluntary communication practices, will result.

10. New Zealand also strongly supports the continued work of the International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability, particularly in its examination of gaps in the nuclear liability regime.

11. Having an effective liability regime in place to insure against harm to human health and the environment, as well as possible economic loss owing to accident or incident during the maritime transport of radioactive materials, is a key priority for New Zealand. This has particular significance to our region, given the fragility of communities in the South Pacific that are heavily dependent on the environment for their economic livelihoods.
