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# Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## Third session

New York, 29 April–10 May 2019

## Peaceful Uses Program

### Working paper submitted by the United States of America

#### Introduction

1. The widespread application of nuclear energy, science, and technology for peaceful purposes, and the thriving international cooperation and trade that supports it, are an under-appreciated benefit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Article IV commits NPT Parties to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, but this exchange would not be possible without the assurances that come from NPT Parties' compliance with their nonproliferation obligations under Articles I, II, and III of the Treaty. In the nearly 50 years since the NPT came into force, the peaceful use of nuclear technologies has flourished, and demand for these benefits stands to grow. NPT Parties share an interest and commitment to support the sustainable and safe expansion of access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology under the NPT.

2. As the 2020 Review Conference approaches, the United States will continue to consult with other NPT Parties on how to draw attention to and further expand these benefits. The United States is seeking to forge consensus around an approach that demonstrates the commitment of NPT Parties to support peaceful uses, improves upon and modernizes the way peaceful use assistance is delivered, and reinforces the strong relationship between the nonproliferation and peaceful use elements of the NPT.

#### U.S. Support for the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

3. The United States strongly supports peaceful nuclear cooperation. Since the NPT's entry into force in 1970, U.S. exports of nuclear technology have fostered the generation of approximately 70 gigawatt of clean electricity. The United States continues to support American development and exports of advanced nuclear reactors that conform with the highest standards of safety, security, and operational efficiency. American investments in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) programs have positively affected the lives of people around the world through advancements in industry, medicine, agriculture, and energy production.



4. In 2010, to support the implementation of Article IV, NPT Parties encouraged states to make additional contributions to the IAEA, which responded by launching the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) to provide funding to IAEA Member States in areas such as food security, water resource management, human health, and nuclear power infrastructure development. Since 2010, the United States has provided voluntary contributions totalling nearly \$380 million to support peaceful uses activities through the IAEA, including over \$100 million to the PUI. Our funds have supported work in areas such as food security and protection of the environment, as well as those listed above. Twenty-five other IAEA Member States and the European Union have joined the United States in supporting the PUI by providing monetary or in-kind contributions to the Initiative. The United States supports the extension and expansion of this successful initiative. In addition to PUI contributions, the United States conducts and supports capacity-building activities to help countries develop robust, independent regulatory infrastructures.

### **Expanded Approach to Article IV Peaceful Use Assistance**

5. To date, the international community has made substantial progress in expanding the benefits of Article IV, working through supplier governments and the IAEA. As these Article IV benefits have expanded, demand has only grown. Needs of recipient states and the types and sources of available support also have evolved. To address these evolving needs, it is essential to have the fullest participation of the innovation, research, and practitioner community in future dialogue. Accordingly, on the margins of the April 2018 NPT PrepCom, and again on the margins of the September 2018 IAEA General Conference, the United States began discussions with NPT Parties to stimulate donor and recipient states to think more creatively about how to design our peaceful uses cooperation in ways that further advance our NPT objectives. In 2019, the United States will continue these consultations in New York and on a regional basis.

6. One innovative practice in this NPT review cycle has been to convene regional workshops to facilitate NPT-related consultations. The United States hopes this practice will continue in ways that permit the full participation of this practitioner community. Parties should encourage national laboratories, universities, private foundations, regulators, technical ministries, and corporations supporting nuclear peaceful uses to participate. Through the direct involvement of such practitioners, donor and recipient countries would be able to establish a shared understanding of needs and available assistance.

### **Building a foundation for future work**

7. The NPT, in all its aspects, has contributed to the development and betterment of societies, and to an improved quality of life around the world in the 50 years since its entry into force. The enduring success and credibility of the NPT in this regard depends on our ability as States Parties to respond to the growing demand for peaceful nuclear technology, and to do so consistent with high nonproliferation standards. It is incumbent upon all NPT States Party to articulate and carry out a vision for expanding these benefits under the NPT for the next 50 years. The United States seeks to build on its fact-finding efforts initiated in 2018 to identify specific needs and desires, as well as gaps in the Article IV assistance currently available.

8. With this in mind, the United States invites our NPT partners to join this dialogue on new avenues of support for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, within the framework of the Treaty. The goal of this dialogue is to foster an inclusive

discussion of past successes and experiences, and identify future opportunities in the field of peaceful nuclear cooperation. Together, the Parties can rededicate themselves to protecting and enhancing cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear applications so that all of humanity will be able to continue to share in the benefits of nuclear science and technology in the future.

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