



**2013 session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference
of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**Cluster III Statement by Ambassador Peter Woolcott
Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Geneva
and Ambassador for Disarmament
30 April 2013**

Mr Chairman,

Australia supports States' rights to develop nuclear energy for peaceful uses, within a framework that reduces the risk of proliferation, adheres to the highest international standards for nuclear safeguards, security and safety, and provides the international community with confidence about those activities' exclusively peaceful nature.

Australia is a major supplier of uranium to many of the world's nuclear power and research reactors, a party to numerous bilateral agreements on nuclear cooperation, a party to relevant IAEA Conventions on Security and Safety in accordance with Action 59, and maintains a competitive and ambitious scientific nuclear research program.

In this context, Australia takes very seriously the obligations placed upon us by the NPT and we continue to urge others to fully meet their obligations – including through the full implementation of the 2010 Action Plan – in order to fully enjoy the benefits of being a State party to the NPT.

Mr Chairman,

This year, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) celebrates 60 years of delivering benefits and innovation to health care, the environment, agriculture, mining, manufacturing and construction through the application of nuclear techniques. The OPAL reactor in Sydney is the only major contributor to the worldwide supply of radiopharmaceuticals which uses only low enriched uranium (LEU) targets and fuel. In the coming years, this contribution will be bolstered by the construction of a new radiopharmaceutical manufacturing facility at ANSTO with significantly increased production capacity, to enhance the security of global supply of medical radioisotopes into the future.

Australia encourages the remaining research reactors using Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) to move to LEU fuel in accordance with Action 61. We would like to congratulate the IAEA and the Czech Republic on the recent announcement of their successful efforts to remove all HEU fuel from the Czech Republic, and urge other States with HEU fuel to follow the Czech Republic's example.

Mr Chairman,

The IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) provides much needed funding to support one of the three pillars of the NPT, namely the dissemination of the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

Australia is among the top contributors to the TCF and calls on all States to pay their assessed contributions to the Fund in full and on time to help enhance the effectiveness of the TCF, consistent with Action 52. In line with Action 55, Australia is also pleased to make extra-budgetary contributions through the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) to two on-going projects on ocean acidification and marine coastal environment pollution. The PUI is a creative method of funding important initiatives, which supports the TCF in providing access to the benefits of nuclear energy.

Mr Chairman,

Australia reaffirms that the right of States parties to pursue peaceful nuclear energy is dependent on their adherence to non-proliferation and safeguards obligations. This qualification has been continually reaffirmed by NPT States parties including in the 2010 RevCon Final Document. Full compliance with the Treaty's non-proliferation and verification requirements under Articles I, II, and III underpins the right of States Parties to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Australia is cognisant of the issues relating to the security of supply of nuclear fuel. We believe that a well-functioning market provides the best assurance of supply for all States, and mitigates the need to develop costly indigenous enrichment or reprocessing programs in order to exercise their Article IV rights. Australia continues to support IAEA Board of Governors resolutions establishing multilateral approaches to the fuel cycle in line with Action 58. These approaches provide a welcome platform to prevent the proliferation of sensitive nuclear technologies.

Mr Chairman,

With the lessons of the Fukushima accident still fresh, nuclear safety must remain a priority for all States. Australia continues to promote the implementation of best practice in nuclear safety. We continue to urge all States to apply, in a substantive way, IAEA Safety Standards, to utilise IAEA peer review services on a regular basis and publish mission reports, and to actively participate in peer review processes conducted under the Safety Conventions.

Australia looks forward to the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands. We believe the Nuclear Security Summits have been highly beneficial in highlighting the security of nuclear materials as a priority worldwide. The acquisition of nuclear material by a terrorist group would be to the detriment of the security of all States and their citizens. We believe the creation of an empowered and enduring nuclear security regime beyond the summit process will be beneficial to the security of nations and peoples worldwide. We urge all States to ratify the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in line with Action 45 and the Amendment

to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in line with Action 42.

Reaffirming Australia's commitment to the principles of nuclear security and non-proliferation as expressed in the 2010 Action Plan, in 2013, Australia will host an International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission, in order to ensure that its facilities continue to comply with internationally recognised best practice.

Mr Chairman,

All States parties have the right to research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, this right is coupled with obligations which must be adhered to in order to enjoy the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear technology. The three pillars of the NPT – non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses – are inseparably interrelated. The 2010 Action Plan provides a solid foundation of action which will guide the development of the NPT across all three pillars. As we build to the 2015 RevCon, Australia urges all States parties to work together to fully implement the 2010 Action Plan.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

