



**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**CLUSTER THREE DEBATE**

**STATEMENT BY JOSEPH BALLARD**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

Mr Chairman

As a strong supporter of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, New Zealand remains committed to progress across its three pillars. We are dedicated to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and we continue to encourage all efforts – both traditional and innovative - to realise this goal.

Like other NPT states, New Zealand enjoys the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the NPT. New Zealanders contribute to and benefit from advances in nuclear science across fields as diverse as human health, water management and food quality. In this regard New Zealand is pleased to be an ongoing supporter of the Peaceful Uses Initiative, including through our most recent contribution of NZ\$50,000 earlier this year.

Mr Chairman

New Zealand does not intend to utilise nuclear energy to generate electricity but we recognise that nuclear power forms part of the existing or planned energy mix for a number of countries. We emphasise that all countries developing and using nuclear energy must apply the highest standards of safeguards, safety and security through all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, including transport and waste management.

The international community is still learning the lessons of the tragic nuclear accident at Fukushima in 2011. Much valuable work has been done by the IAEA and its member states to strengthen the global nuclear safety regime. But we must not allow progress to lead to complacency. New Zealand is closely monitoring progress in implementation of the Nuclear Safety Action Plan, agreed at a high-level meeting of IAEA member states following the accident. For New Zealand, and many of our regional neighbours, the accident reinforced the importance of continued vigilance and transparency on nuclear safety issues. New Zealand's recent contribution to the PUI will be going directly towards sustaining the IAEA's post-Fukushima marine monitoring project in the Asia Pacific.

Mr Chairman

As Fukushima clearly demonstrated, nuclear accidents do not respect national boundaries. As a country that has not chosen nuclear power for itself, New Zealand is nevertheless still susceptible to suffering damage as a result of a nuclear accident elsewhere. This is particularly true for an accident occurring during the maritime transport of nuclear material.

New Zealand remains concerned to ensure that such shipments are conducted in the highest possible safety and security conditions and that communication between shipping and other interested states is timely, transparent and takes place within a well-defined framework, including proper emergency preparedness and response systems. We welcome the work underway in the IAEA in this area,

including efforts to improve the international nuclear liability regime. In this context New Zealand is pleased to have played a constructive role in the Agency Working Group that concluded in late 2013 which agreed best practice guidelines for systematic and timely communication between the governments of shipping and coastal states. We look forward to their implementation and would welcome any additional progress on voluntary measures by the states concerned.

Mr Chairman

Like nuclear safety, nuclear security is an issue of global importance, not least because of its transboundary implications. New Zealand was particularly pleased to participate in 2013 in the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts hosted by the IAEA in Vienna. That Conference highlighted the central role of the Agency in supporting Member States to meet their nuclear security obligations and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security. New Zealand considers the Agency's work on nuclear security to be indispensable, and has contributed regularly to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund, most recently NZ\$100,000 earlier this year.

New Zealand is also a strong supporter of a range of other international initiatives designed to strengthen the global nuclear security framework. We are an active participant in the Nuclear Security Summit process, believing that it provides an essential impetus at the highest political level, to global efforts to ensure the ongoing security of nuclear and radiological materials. We are also regular contributors to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the G8 Global Partnership, to which we have donated well over \$7 million over the last decade, and in 2015 we will host a regional table top exercise under the auspices of the Proliferation Security Initiative. We are preparing to introduce legislation that will allow us to ratify both the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

The last three years have seen a renewed international focus on both nuclear safety and nuclear security. Both are vital and entail not only national rights, but also global responsibilities. All of us have a stake in ensuring that we continually strive for the highest possible standards.

Thank you Mr Chairman.