



# **NEW ZEALAND**

**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 H.E. PHILIP GRIFFITHS  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN VIENNA**

**9 MAY 2012**

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*



Thank you, Mr Chairman.

New Zealand joins others in recognising the right of countries to decide to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with Articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty. As the 2010 Review Conference noted, the NPT provides a framework of international confidence and cooperation within which the peaceful uses of nuclear energy can take place. This framework is not just confined to Article IV, but applies to all of the three pillars, which must be implemented in their entirety.

Like others, New Zealand benefits from the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy under the NPT. In fields such as human health, food quality and safety, crop improvement, sustainable land and water management, pest control, water and environmental management, New Zealanders contribute to and benefit from advances in nuclear science, both in our own national institutions and in cooperation with others.

Mr Chairman

The generation of electricity through the use of nuclear energy is not an option New Zealand intends to utilise, but nuclear power forms part of the existing or planned energy mix for a number of countries. We emphasise that the development and use of nuclear energy must be accompanied, through all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, by the highest standards of safety and security, waste management and disposal and non-proliferation safeguards. The risks of lapses in these areas are not confined to national boundaries. Shipments of radioactive material, by air, land or sea, are an inevitable by-product of growth in the use of nuclear energy. New Zealand is 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. Improving the international nuclear liability regime remains a priority for New Zealand.

New Zealand's international engagement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is particularly directed to supporting cooperation on non-power applications within our region, such as through our participation in the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative where we have contributed to the marine benchmark study on the possible impact of Fukushima radioactive releases in Asia-Pacific, and through the IAEA's Regional Cooperation Arrangement (RCA) where we support regional projects related to agriculture, the environment and human health. In this context, I am very pleased to announce today a further contribution of NZ\$100,000 in 2012 to the PUI project on coordinating international research on ocean acidification.

Mr Chairman

The tragic Fukushima nuclear accident last year was a sobering reminder of the inherent danger of the atom. The accident and its aftermath reinforced the interest of all countries in ensuring not only that international nuclear safety and security standards are adhered to, but that those standards are constantly reviewed and updated as technologies improve. While safety and security are national responsibilities, international cooperation through the IAEA is essential to providing global assurances and maintaining public confidence in a safety and security framework that protects the interests of all, nuclear and non-nuclear countries alike. The IAEA's nuclear safety action plan is a credible response to the Fukushima accident and to our collective desire to strengthen the global safety regime. The nuclear safety action plan must be built upon and implemented in full.

Like a nuclear accident, the consequences of a deliberate act of nuclear terrorism would not be confined to a single state. New Zealand is 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. The communiqué issued by the leaders gathered in Seoul in March this year referred to initiatives to improve global nuclear security through international cooperation, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. New Zealand contributes actively to both and believes firmly in the value that they add to our work.

We welcome the intention of the IAEA to convene a conference in 2013 aimed at ensuring greater coordination of international nuclear security initiatives. The Agency's own work on nuclear security is indispensable, and New Zealand is pleased to assist that work by contributing regularly to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund. We also support the work of the World Institute for Nuclear Security on initiatives to strengthen nuclear security including in our region.

Mr Chairman

International developments in the last two years have reminded us that the use of nuclear energy entails not only national rights, but also global responsibilities. The renewed international focus on both safety and security is vital and must continue.