



AUSTRALIA



E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.australia-unsce.org.au

THE NINTH REVIEW OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

4 May 2015

Main Committee III

**Statement by Mr. Richard Mathews
Director Nuclear Policy
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

(Check against delivery)

Mr Chairman,

We would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of Main Committee III.

In the 45 years since it entered into force the NPT has underpinned global cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and performed a critical role in the maintenance of international peace and security. The NPT has helped prevent proliferation while enabling the use and transfer of nuclear science and technology, thus contributing to global economic development.

We look forward to constructive deliberations in this committee. We should assess the implementation of the 18 pillar three action items from the 2010 Action Plan and look at which of these need to be reaffirmed and strengthened, and whether there are areas not covered in 2010 which warrant attention in the years ahead.

In the last five years, there has been solid progress on nuclear safety following the Fukushima-Daiichi accident, and an increased high-level focus on nuclear security. We have also seen a growing recognition of the essential role nuclear applications play in areas such as human health, water management, agriculture and environmental protection. The IAEA has assisted 140 Member States in these areas, demonstrating that the peaceful uses of nuclear technology benefit many people around the world.

Mr Chairman

Australia acknowledges the right of all States parties to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the NPT. States may choose individually not to exercise all their rights, or to exercise those rights collectively. In accordance with Article IV.2, we support international cooperation to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Science and technology, including nuclear technology, are an indispensable element of achieving development goals. We thus recognise the particular importance of peaceful nuclear energy to developing countries and encourage relevant IAEA programs to focus on those needs.

of all three Main Committees, it falls to us to consider it here. We look forward to discussing withdrawal in the subsidiary body, where we will speak again on the matter.

Australia of course strongly supports, and commends to other delegations, the working papers submitted by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative and the Vienna Group of Ten in their treatment of Main Committee III issues. We trust these papers will serve to facilitate discussion and provide direction for our work. Thank you.

Thank you Mr Chairman.