



**Statement of Argentina to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the  
2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT – Cluster 3  
Geneva, 23 April 2018**

**To be delivered by the Head of Delegation,  
Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi**

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Mr. Chairman,

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are, without a doubt, key issues in upholding the “grand bargain” struck over fifty years ago by the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Building on and strengthening the work so far by many State parties to the Treaty is a joint responsibility, as is facilitating access to the benefits of the atom for development through the nuclear applications in the fields of health, agriculture, clean water management and other that are essential to sustainable development and must be one of the main outcomes of the current Review process.

In this context, we must underline that the activities in the field of nuclear energy, nuclear medicine and the nuclear technology applications in different modalities related to the atom, are only feasible thanks to the existence of a legal framework that supports it, and the guarantee offered by the NPT through the safeguards system managed by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In this regard, the Treaty is much closer to the every-day reality of people everywhere -and to the solution to their problems- that many would imagine.

It is not an overstatement to say that none of the activities that involve the use of radioactive sources or the promotion of nuclear energy would be possible or allowed, should the NPT not exist.

That is why the pillar of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, often overlooked by many in favor of other more strategic or political issues in the Treaty, has on the other hand much more to do with the wellbeing of our societies than the latter, and deserves utmost attention and priority.

In recent years, and in spite of the undeniable impact of the Fukushima-Daiichi accident, the production of nuclear energy receives a renewed level of attention, linked to a new appreciation for nuclear energy generation in the light of the urgent need for clean energy sources that do not aggravate global warming nor add to the global carbon emissions.

Mr. Chairman,

This positive cycle for nuclear energy and applications was reinforced by the inclusion of energy issues in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The 2030 Agenda is a multilateral platform that

is widely regarded by a majority of States as a tool to foster economic, social and environmental development – the three elements of sustainable development. An additional angle is provided by the explicit objective of building peaceful societies. The points in common between the NPT and the 2030 Agenda are not limited, therefore, to the energy issues, captured in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 - the commitment to ensure universal access to energy services that are reliable, sustainable, modern and affordable. There is an active debate today on the possible contribution that innovative technologies can make, not only to SDG 7, but to the 2030 Agenda as a whole, as an element of the promotion of nuclear energy for development.

The NPT offers the necessary and adequate framework for such promotion, in connection not only with SDG 7 on energy but also with SDG 16 -which establishes the promotion of fairer, more peaceful and more inclusive societies- as well as SDG 4 on education, specifically through target 4.7 that provides for all students to have access to the theoretical and practical knowledge needed for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, among other values. Delegations may recall that the promotion of education for disarmament was one of the main issues analyzed at the 2015 Review Conference. In this regard, target 4.7 could offer an objective set of criteria.

Mr. Chairman,

Gender mainstreaming in the field of peace and security was recognized already in the universally with the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, and it has been official UN policy since 1997. The incorporation of the gender perspective is an active and important part of the UN Security Council agenda since the adoption of resolution 1325(2000). Yet, in the nuclear field and, specifically, in the NPT review process, we have lacked a gender perspective and we have failed to recognize the equal role of men and women in disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The recent resolutions of the UN General Assembly on Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; the 2013 General Recommendation Nr. 30 by the Committee on the Convention for the elimination of discrimination against women, and the very policies we are implementing at the national level in this area, can be our guide in meaningfully incorporating a gender perspective in this review process.

Mr. Chairman,

An essential component of development, in terms of nuclear energy and applications, which is demanded by all of our societies is, clearly, nuclear safety.

We have faced important challenges, such as the recent Fukushima-Daiichi accident, which led to the adoption of important operative and normative improvements.

The Diplomatic Conference that took place in February 2015 to consider a proposed amendment to the Nuclear Safety Convention was a step forward in this regard. The unanimous adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety found the formula to strengthen consensus within the Convention through a firm commitment.

Mr. Chairman,

Mindful of the importance of working cooperatively in the diverse international fora that are today working towards one and the same goal, Argentina is coordinating with Japan an exercise of dialogue and understanding between Nuclear Customers and Suppliers established within the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC), aimed at identifying relevant issues for both parties in order to ensure a better dissemination of nuclear technology for nuclear power – giving priority attention to security and safety, the training of human resources and capacity building, the financial aspects, social acceptance and transparency.

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation is persuaded that a profound revalorization of the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is needed.

It would no doubt have a clear added value, in the time remaining towards 2020, for all of us that are active in and benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to jointly analyze, in the framework of regional and sub-regional meetings, how to strengthen this linkage between NPT and civil nuclear activity. We have in mind operators, the nuclear industry, regulators, the agencies, promotional and research organizations, who we don't see enough in these Conferences, but who are ultimately the soul of the nuclear activity.

In 2020, it should be possible to reach tangible commitments and concrete results for nuclear activity, such as we seek in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are not just an extra, something that is can be good to have. They are as central to the spirit and the letter of the NPT as are the political clauses.

Peaceful uses and NPT are two faces of the same coin, and must be part and parcel of a Review and Recommitment Conference in 2020.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.