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Statement by

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at the

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Cluster III

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Chair

Like all other NPT states, New Zealand contributes to and benefits from advances in nuclear science in a number of areas including agriculture, human health and environmental management. The potential applications of nuclear technology are many and varied, and we recognise in particular the significant contribution that this technology can make to developing countries and to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. New Zealand has been very pleased to support the modernisation and renewal of the IAEA's laboratories in Seibersdorf Austria that deliver valuable technical assistance to Member States, thereby helping to ensure that nuclear science and technology can deliver benefits to all. We are pleased to announce today that New Zealand will contribute a further NZD\$100,000 towards the renovation of the Seibersdorf laboratories to support the excellent work being done there.

Recognising NPT states parties' inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear technologies, it is important that we also ensure that we are each using this technology safely and securely and in that regard New Zealand would like to register a few points during this meeting.

While New Zealand does not use nuclear power, we recognise that others have chosen to do so or plan to in the future. In doing so, it is critical that countries developing and using nuclear power and other technologies must apply the highest standards of safeguards, safety and security to all nuclear facilities and material across the full nuclear fuel cycle. Nuclear accidents do not respect national boundaries and these materials can pose significant risks.

This would be particularly true for an accident occurring during the maritime transport of nuclear material. New Zealand continues to actively promote the safe transport of radioactive material, including by sea. We greatly value the dialogue between coastal and shipping states which has done a lot to build confidence and communication channels on this issue in recent years, including through the conclusion of voluntary best practice guidelines on communication. We thank Ireland for hosting the next meeting of this group in Dublin next Friday. We also welcome efforts to improve the international nuclear liability regime and will continue to work with others to ensure the concerns of coastal states are taken into account.

Nuclear technology must be used responsibly. While it is important to effectively protect ourselves when employing this technology, it is equally important to protect the technology from those who would misuse it. The potential humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences of a security breach enabling access to nuclear or radioactive materials are grave and cannot be overstated. It is very important, therefore, that nuclear security is not seen as a burden or a restriction but rather as an essential element in the responsible use of nuclear technology.

The IAEA's work on nuclear security is indispensable, including for states like New Zealand with small quantities of nuclear and radioactive material. The IAEA's IPPAS missions represent a valuable tool to obtain helpful practical advice for securing nuclear and

radioactive material. In recognition of the excellent support that the Agency is able to provide Member States as they grapple with the challenges around effectively securing nuclear technology, New Zealand is pleased to announce a further contribution to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund of NZD100,000 this year. New Zealand looks forward to participating in the Nuclear Security Conference in Vienna next year and working towards practical outcomes to sustain and strengthen the Agency's work on these important issues.

Finally, we would like to note New Zealand's support for the Vienna Group of Ten working paper, which discusses the shared views of a number of countries on the so-called 'Vienna issues', including around cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, and nuclear security. We commend the Group's paper and recommendations for your attention in that regard.

Thank you Chair.

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