

# Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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### Nuclear energy: a path toward net zero

**Working paper submitted by Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Türkiye and the United States of America**

1. Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Türkiye and the United States of America reiterate their confidence in civil nuclear energy as a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement commitments, as well as our collective climate objectives, including carbon neutrality.
2. Along with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technologies is paramount for the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We reaffirm our support for the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
3. With this objective, we remain committed to promoting nuclear energy as an efficient solution, alongside renewable energy, to meet our climate objectives. All available fossil-free technologies will play a role in decarbonizing our energy mix. Among them, nuclear power is an available, affordable, sustainable, low-carbon energy that can reduce dependence on fossil fuels and ensure global energy security. It is a flexible and non-intermittent energy that will help to address the climate crisis and meet tomorrow's increasing electricity demand. Besides, its applications cover a wide range of other needs, such as mass production of decarbonized hydrogen, industrial heat and water desalinization, among others.
4. While promoting existing technologies, innovation in the field of nuclear energy remains key to address new needs of nuclear energy, to minimize the radioactive waste production and in the perspective of continuous progress on nuclear safety. Small modular reactors, in addition to large reactors, other advanced reactors with advanced safety systems and, in the next decades, the promises of nuclear fusion, constitute various ways that are worth exploring to deploy nuclear energy worldwide



in line with the highest standards of safety, security, and safeguards. We remain committed to continuing our efforts in research and development of such new technologies, to share the knowledge derived from the use of research reactors and to exchange best practices and expertise among the scientific community, with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) playing a key role in fostering international cooperation.

5. We support the safe, secure and efficient use of existing reactors, including by prolonging their safe long-term operation, in addressing the current energy crisis, as well as the development and construction of new nuclear reactors, such as small modular and other advanced reactors, in line with IAEA safety standards and nuclear security guidance.

6. We reaffirm the central role of IAEA in strengthening and coordinating cooperation in nuclear safety and security and to provide assurances regarding the non-diversion of nuclear material and facilities from peaceful activities. We support IAEA in facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies in a safe, secure and sustainable manner. We support aiding the development, in coordination with other States and IAEA, of internationally recognized nuclear safety and security standards and guidance for the deployment of next-generation technologies, including small modular reactors and other advanced reactors.

7. The Non-Proliferation Treaty offers a framework that allows the responsible, safe and secure development of nuclear energy. We remain committed to the implementation of the highest standards of safeguards, nuclear safety and nuclear security guidance, in coordination with IAEA, and including the relevant international nuclear legal framework, in order to ensure and strengthen public confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

### **Moving forward during the 2026 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons review cycle**

(a) Continue to share information and to promote transparency on nuclear energy with the public, in particular through active participation in major events related to nuclear energy, the diversity of peaceful uses, its safe and secure use as a baseload source of energy and its fundamental role, alongside renewable energy, in energy transition, with a view to ensuring and strengthening public confidence;

(b) Continue our full support to international organizations and especially to IAEA for its participation at major international conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) Promote the implementation of the highest standards and guidance in the field of nuclear safety, security and safeguards to ensure a responsible, safe and secure management of nuclear facilities worldwide;

(d) Promote gender equality and support women in accessing critical positions in the nuclear industry, as well as mobilize young scientists to maintain and strengthen human resources, skills and knowledge in the field of nuclear energy, including through supporting initiatives like the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and the Lise Meitner Programme.