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SESSION III: Speaking Points

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Thank you Madam Chair,

Though the issue of nuclear energy is not on our agenda and rightly so, the statement by the representative of Azerbaijan necessitates a reply. My intention is to offer the following clarifications that clearly renounce the disinformation bordering to open lies.

1. ANPP was the first nuclear power plant in the former USSR to be constructed in a region of high seismicity. The specific nature of the ANPP site - its seismicity - caused significant changes in VVER-440 (V-230 project) design, not only in construction but also in design of reactor facility in the whole, and the reactor was assigned with the new identification – V-270.
The reactor building, auxiliary building, ventilation stack, as well as the buildings and structures containing equipment of safety systems or safety-related on-line systems and communications connecting these structures were assigned with category of High Importance. They were considered to have one point more seismic resistance than that of the ANPP site. After the December 1988 “Spitak” earthquake the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant did not sustain any damage.
2. The IAEA assembled an international team of experts at the request of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to conduct an Operational Safety Review (OSART) of the NPP. Under the leadership of the IAEA’s Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, the OSART team performed an in-depth operational safety review in May 2011. The OSART team conducted an “in-depth review” of the aspects essential to the safe operation of the ANPP plant. The conclusions of the review are based on the IAEA’s Safety Standards and proven good international practices. The OSART team has made 14 recommendations and 12 suggestions related to areas where operational safety

of Armenian NPP could be improved. Also the OSART team has identified good plant practices which will be shared with the rest of the nuclear industry for consideration of their application (Short Summary is attached).

3. In connection with the development of nuclear energy, after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Fukushima, on March 11, 2011 Armenia expressed willingness to conduct “stress-tests” at the Armenian NPP. Soon the Armenian NPP will complete “stress-test” activity and submit the results to EU for review.
4. The Republic of Armenia supported the initiative of the IAEA Director General to declassify and publish the IAEA Mission Reports compiled after the Agency expert visits to the Metsamor NPP. The decision was taken in line with the Plan of Action of IAEA for the Nuclear Safety endorsed at the Ministerial Conference held in June 2011.
5. The safety of the operational unit is always under scrutiny of the Armenian authorities. On 6 December 2011 the regular 13th session of the Nuclear Energy Safety Council was held. On the Board of the Council world renown scientists and experts from Germany, Russian Federation, France, UK, Australia and the Czech Republic are represented.
6. The IAEA coordinates the international assistance and implementation of practical measures for the upgrade of the safety of Armenian NPP. On 13-14 October 2011 in Vienna the 5th Technical Conference with the above-mentioned on its agenda took place. The total cost of upgrades implemented at the Armenian NPP Unit 2 from 1993 to present is 120 million USD.
7. In cooperation with the experts from the EU at the end of 2012 the elaboration of “Strategy for the Management of Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel” has commenced. The scope of the policy will cover all the radioactive waste generated by the existing ANPP, including the waste that will be generated during its decommissioning, and the waste coming from the new NPP. Additional radioactive waste generated by the medical, industrial and other facilities will also be covered.

Joint Convention of 1997 on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management currently is at the final stage of ratification.

8. In 1996, the French company Framatome was awarded a contract to construct a NUHOMS-type dry spent fuel storage facility on the ANPP site. In August 1998 Framatome completed construction of the storage facility at Metsamor.
The facility is designed to store spent nuclear fuel for 50 years period. In May 2005 the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia approved the plan to expand the dry spent fuel storage facility.
The second stage of the dry spent fuel storage facility has been already completed and the storage was put into operation in spring 2008.
The third stage of the storage construction began in 2012.
9. By the Government Decree from December 13, 2012, N 1546 the “Method on Seismic Hazard Assessment for the New Nuclear Site Unit” has been

approved based on the latest IAEA guidance. Positive review was received from the IAEA after the second review of the above mentioned document.

10. Armenia strictly complies with the provisions of the ESPOO Convention. All procedures in the process of assessment of the environmental impact of the new nuclear unit to be constructed have been adhered to. The report timely and duly submitted to the ESPOO Convention Secretariat in Geneva is open and can be found on the web-site of the Ministry of Energy and Nature Protection of Armenia since 2010. Conspicuously, no opinion was voiced in this regard by Armenia's immediate neighbors thus far.

Thank you Madam Chair.