**IAEA Board of Governors**

**Vienna, 22-24 November 2023**

**Agenda item 5e: NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Statement by Denmark**

Thank you Chair,

1. Denmark aligns itself with the EU statement delivered under this agenda item.
2. Following the clear calls made on Iran in the September Board meeting by a broad group of Member States, we are dismayed to learn that, yet again, there has been no progress in resolving longstanding safeguards issues. At the same time, Iran appears to have frozen its implementation of the March Joint Statement, linking this matter to unrelated issues.
3. This lack of progress means that our strong concern with Iran’s failure to provide technically credible explanations for the presence of uranium particles at undeclared locations and the Agency’s ensuing inability to confirm the correctness and completeness of Iran’s Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement declarations is unabated. More than four years and many board meetings after the emergence of these issues, they remain unresolved.
4. Let us be clear: The outstanding issues stem from Iran’s legally binding obligations. For the sake of the international non-proliferation regime, all states must fulfil their safeguards obligations. For a country producing and accumulating large quantities of highly enriched uranium, moreover without a credible civilian purpose, not to do so is of particular concern.
5. It is therefore also a matter of great concern that Iran is not only not implementing modified Code 3.1, but now appears unwilling to try to find a solution for the early provision of information on new nuclear facilities. We reiterate that the modified Code constitutes a legal obligation, and no country can chose to unilaterally suspend it.
6. The Iranian decision to de-designate experienced Agency inspectors strongly adds to our concerns, as it directly and seriously affects the IAEA’s ability to effectively conduct verification activities in Iran, a country with very significant nuclear activities. Suggesting that the Agency can simply replace those inspectors is a false narrative in the light of the very specific and rare expertise they possess.

Chair

1. The Board’s most recent resolution, adopted a year ago, called for urgent action by Iran. Yet it is clear from the report that Iran has failed to take the steps necessary to implement that resolution. Once again, Denmark urges Iran to comply fully and without further delay with its obligations and to cooperate in good faith with the Agency. Iran has already worn the patience of the international community very thin indeed. It would be crucial for Iran to contribute to building confidence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities by providing the Agency with the access, the information and the cooperation necessary for the Agency to draw a conclusion in this regard.
2. Let me end by commending the IAEA, the Director General and the Safeguards Department for their continued professional and impartial efforts to implement safeguards in Iran in line with standard practise. We fully support them and look forward to their continued reporting.

Thank you Chair