

59th IAEA General Conference

14 - 18 September 2015

Statement by Denmark

As delivered by Ambassador Liselotte Plesner, Resident Representative

Mister President,

Congratulations on your election as President of the General Conference, you can count on our support.

I wish to start by thanking the Director General and the staff of the IAEA for their highly professional and effective work over the past year. This is invaluable to us, nationally and collectively. Denmark aligns itself with the EU statement delivered earlier by the representative of Luxembourg. I will offer a few points from the perspective of the Kingdom of Denmark.

Denmark firmly supports the Agency's efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. Ensuring that no nuclear material is diverted to military purposes is crucial in laying the grounds for safe and secure peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. We fully support the State-level concept of safeguards as a way to increase the efficiency of safeguards while maintaining their effectiveness.

Denmark welcomes the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as well as the Road-map between Iran and the IAEA for the clarification of past and present outstanding issues. As with any other agreement, three issues are essential: Implementation, implementation and implementation. Iran needs to cooperate fully with the Agency under the Road Map regarding Possible Military Dimensions to its nuclear programme. And the IAEA has the major role to play in monitoring and verifying Iran's compliance with the JCPOA. We are reassured that Director General Amano has expressed his confidence that the IAEA has the expertise and experience to carry out this challenging task. We recognize that this will require additional resources, particularly from the regular budget but also in the form of voluntary financing. Denmark fully supports the IAEA's crucial work in this area and has pledged to make a financial contribution.

As for the DPRK we share the serious concern expressed by the Director General in his latest report. We have strongly condemned nuclear tests already conducted and urge the DPRK to refrain from further such tests. We look forward to a strong resolution of this General Conference urging the DPRK to live up to its obligations and commitments so as to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Our concern about Syria's non-compliance with its safeguards agreement continues. We deeply regret that Syria has shown no willingness to remedy the situation. We continue to call on Syria to comply with the Board's 2011 resolution and to cooperate fully with the IAEA, including through bringing into force an Additional Protocol. As long as this has not happened, the IAEA's Board of Governors must continue to consider the matter.

Mister President

Denmark continues to work to clarify issues concerning possible uranium extraction in Greenland. We have benefitted from IAEA advice and training on safeguards, safety and security issues as we strive to make sure that any uranium-related work is carried out in line with the highest international standards and best practises. We will continue to draw on the Agency's expertise and professionalism and thank the Director General and his staff warmly for all the assistance provided so far.

Mister President

Nuclear safety and security are issues that affect us all profoundly, whether or not we live in a country that uses nuclear power. Any accident or incident is likely to have cross-border effects and thus we have a clear interest in promoting nuclear security and nuclear safety worldwide.

As far as nuclear security is concerned, no organisation plays a more fundamental and vital role than the IAEA. The IAEA offers a global platform for cooperation and assistance and holds the technical expertise needed to help us all make the world more secure. Discussions during the series of Nuclear Security Summits have contributed to making this clear. We are, therefore, very pleased to have been able to make a further substantial contribution to the Nuclear Security Fund last December. We are also committed to ensuring sufficient funds for the IAEA's nuclear security work through the regular budget. We look forward to the high-level IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in December 2016.

We welcome recent ratifications of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. These are significant steps towards the entry into force of this important legal instrument. As this draws closer, we should analyse the need for and feasibility of further steps to close the gaps in the international legal framework covering nuclear security.

Mister President

We are grateful to the Agency for the seminal Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident and the extraordinary effort involved in producing it. It is very important that we now have a deep understanding of the causes and consequences of that tragic accident and this must lead to even further robust nuclear safety measures everywhere.

As the initial implementation period for the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan draws to a close, we commend the IAEA for its effort, including, crucially, improving and expanding its own arrangements for responding to a nuclear emergency. The Secretariat and the Member States now need to continue down the road generated by the Action Plan as an integral part of nuclear safety activities.

Denmark has also taken a number of steps over the past four years to implement relevant parts of the Action Plan. Particularly, we have worked to improve our emergency preparedness system and resources within the nuclear field to achieve a higher level of awareness and coordination among the various national authorities involved in emergency planning. Also we have continued to strengthen our system for permanently monitoring radiation levels in Denmark and Greenland. In this respect we have also established a number of special field investigation teams that can perform more sophisticated measurements and i.a. map hotspots. We also seek to strengthen cooperation with other countries and in this respect I would like to highlight the long and close cooperation with our Nordic neighbours.

The continuing improvement of the international nuclear safety architecture is central. We wish to thank all those involved in initiating and conducting this year's Diplomatic Conference under the Convention on Nuclear Safety. We trust that the consensus outcome will be clearly reflected in States' reports to future Review Meetings. Specifically we look forward to the next review meeting in 2017 where the commitments from the consensus outcome should be key to all Member States.

Mister President

Turning briefly to the issue of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, Denmark has made the decision that nuclear power should not be included in our own energy mix, as we base our national long-term energy production plans on the development and expansion of more sustainable forms of energy. We respect, however, the choice of other Member States and the Agency's statutory obligations. We recognise the interest of a number of states in introducing nuclear power and highly value the IAEA's contribution to ensuring that this happens in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.

We fully support the IAEA's technical cooperation work in such crucial areas as human health, food security, water and the environment and have been pleased to pledge our full share of the TCF target for 2016.

In our world of growing complexity, we witness new challenges but also fresh opportunities, and the professionalism and technical know-how of the IAEA in all its fields of activities is needed more than ever. Rest assured of our steadfast support. We hope that the General Conference will focus its attention on these crucial areas of IAEA expertise and refrain from taking steps that could divert attention from both the IAEA's work and processes underway

elsewhere. In conclusion Denmark wishes to once more sincerely thank the Director General and his dedicated staff for their invaluable contribution to building a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you, Mister President