

58th IAEA General Conference

22-26 September 2014

Statement by Denmark

As delivered by Ambassador Liselotte Plesner, Resident Representative

Mr 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. I also wish to thank the Director General for his visit to Denmark last December which contributed to the success of the conference “An open World: Science, Technology and Society in the light of Niels Bohr’s Thoughts”. Useful discussions during the visit with Danish officials contributed to raising awareness of the valuable work of IAEA across the spectrum of its tasks including the lesser known ones as was mentioned yesterday morning.

Denmark aligns itself with the EU statement delivered yesterday by Italy. I will offer a few points from the Danish perspective.

Denmark firmly supports the Agency’s efforts to prevent **nuclear proliferation**. The IAEA’s work on safeguards is pivotal in ensuring that no nuclear material is diverted to military purposes thus laying the grounds for safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. We must,

collectively, ensure that the IAEA has the right instruments at its disposal to carry out this task. We support the Secretariat's work to increase the efficiency of safeguards while maintaining their effectiveness, including through the application of the State-level concept of safeguards, and thank the Secretariat for the transparency it has shown in developing this concept.

In addition to the NPT and the IAEA, the Security Council has a key responsibility in the field of non-proliferation, as witnessed both by Resolutions 1540 and 1887 and by country-specific resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As far as the **DPRK** is concerned, we share the serious concern expressed by the Director General in his latest report. We have strongly condemned nuclear tests already conducted and urge DPRK to refrain from further such tests.

There have been a number of developments regarding the issue of **Iran's** nuclear programme since our last Conference. We welcome agreements reached between Iran and the Agency as well as between Iran and the E3+3. We are seriously concerned, as is evident from the Director General's latest report, that Iran has not taken all the practical measures contained in the most recent step of the Joint Framework for Cooperation. We are convinced that achieving a long-term settlement depends on full Iranian commitment and cooperation with the Agency in order to clarify all outstanding issues, past and present, including the possible military dimensions of the program. We also welcome the IAEA's monitoring and verification work related to the Joint Plan of Action and we are pleased to be part of the broad group of countries supporting this work financially.

As regards the issue of **Syria's** non-compliance with its safeguards agreement, we deeply regret that there have been no developments over the past year that would indicate Syrian willingness to

remedy the situation. We continue to call on Syria to comply with the Board's 2011 resolution, to cooperate fully with the IAEA, including through bringing into force an Additional Protocol.

Mr. President

In the past year Denmark has benefitted from IAEA seminars and workshops on safeguards, safety and security issues as we have worked to clarify issues concerning possible uranium extraction in **Greenland**. I want to express our sincere gratitude to the Agency staff involved in these activities. The advice and training that we have received have proven useful as we strive to make sure that any uranium-related work is carried out in line with the highest international standards and best practises. The IAEA's professional approach has also served to reinforce our strong support for the Agency's work on safety and security. 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 safety and nuclear security 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 a safer place. Denmark was proud, at the Nuclear Security Summit earlier this year, to announce a further pledge to the Nuclear Security Fund in support of the Agency's activities to improve nuclear security in the coming years. 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.

This year for the second time, Denmark was rated number one among countries without nuclear materials in the Nuclear Threat Initiative's security index. Denmark is proud of this rating and stands ready to share relevant experiences with interested countries.

As regards **nuclear safety**, it is important that the impressive set of activities and outcomes reported by the Director General be continued and integrated into the IAEA's regular safety programme. We look forward to the publication next year of the IAEA Fukushima Report. We recognise that the Safety Action Plan can only be implemented through efforts by both the Secretariat and Member States. While many of the action points are primarily geared to countries with a nuclear power programme, Denmark, for its part, has also taken steps over the past three years to implement relevant parts. 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. We are also strengthening cooperation with our Nordic neighbours within the nuclear area.

With the Fukushima Daiichi accident in mind, we attach high importance to the continuing improvement of the international nuclear safety architecture. We hope that the Diplomatic Conference next year will lead to a further strengthening of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

We find it highly relevant that this year's Scientific Forum focuses on meeting the challenges connected with Radioactive Waste. Finding a safe and sustainable solution for the waste resulting from the decommissioning of Denmark's research reactor has been a challenge, so we are well aware of the significance of this issue.

Mr. 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 2015.

In our world of growing complexity, new challenges but also fresh opportunities the expertise of the IAEA in all its fields of activities is needed more than ever. Rest assured of our steadfast support. 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, Mr. President