

IAEA 54th General Conference 20-24 September 2010

Statement by Denmark as delivered by Ambassador John Bernhard Permanent Representative to the IAEA

Mr. President

At the outset let me congratulate you on your election as President of the General Conference and assure you of our full support to your endeavours.

Denmark fully associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by Belgium on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add a few points on a national basis.

Denmark was very pleased with the successful conduct of the NPT Review Conference earlier this year and with its outcome document which outlines steps we must all work to put into practice to promote international disarmament and non-proliferation and thus peace and security. It is important that we all prioritize the implementation of the Action Plan adopted and avoid steps that might jeopardize this work.

The IAEA will continue to play a central role in the world's efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. With its highly professional and dedicated staff, the IAEA, through its inspection procedures, serves to verify peaceful use of nuclear technologies and offers us all essential assurances in that regard. The work of the IAEA offers its member states the opportunity to clear themselves of any suspicion of wrong-doing through full and unrestricted cooperation with the

Agency. As experience shows, however, the IAEA can only play this role to the full when it has the necessary tools in place. Denmark is convinced that a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in combination with an Additional Protocol constitutes today's verification standard pursuant to the NPT. We call for universal accession to and implementation of both instruments.

The UN Security Council also has a key responsibility for non-proliferation. Denmark warmly welcomes the adoption last September of Security Council Resolution 1887 and continues to fully support Security Council Resolution 1540, whose adoption marked a fundamental step forward. The Security Council has also adopted a number of country-specific resolutions with the object of upholding the integrity and efficiency of the non-proliferation regime. It is essential that all countries fully implement the Security Council's resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and on Iran.

With regard to Iran, we share the serious concern expressed in a succession of reports by the IAEA Director General regarding the failure of Iran to extend the cooperation to the Agency that would be necessary to allow it to confirm that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities and to dispel doubts about possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme. We urge Iran to comply fully with all resolutions of the Security Council, the Board of Governors and with its safeguards agreement.

Denmark also shares the IAEA's concern about Syria's failure to cooperate with the Agency to an extent that would allow the Agency to make progress toward resolving outstanding issues surrounding the peaceful nature of Syria's nuclear

programme. We join the Director General in urging Syria to bring into force an Additional Protocol in order to facilitate the work of the Agency to verify the completeness and correctness of Syria's declarations.

As regards the DPRK, Denmark is very concerned that the IAEA is not being permitted to fulfil its mandate. We strongly support calls on the DPRK to comply with its international obligations as well as to allow an early return of IAEA inspectors.

Mr. President,

Denmark highly values the IAEA's work on nuclear security. As demonstrated by the holding this year of a Nuclear Security Summit, the need to protect ourselves against nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts involving nuclear material is ever higher on the world's agenda. We welcome the Work Plan adopted at the Summit and strive to make our own contribution to promoting nuclear security world-wide. Denmark is glad to have been able to contribute again this year to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund and is also committed to working to ensure that the Fund has sufficient resources to step up its work to help all Member States protect themselves and each other against nuclear terrorism. Denmark is pleased that the IAEA budgets for 2010 and 2011 mark steps in the right direction in this regard. I should also like to mention that Denmark has ratified, earlier this year, the Amendment to the 2005 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We hope for its early entry into force. In general, we are keen to increase our own involvement in this still more important field.

Mr. President,

Turning 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 do not consider it a sustainable form of energy. While we, therefore, are not in favour of a promotional role for the Agency in the field of nuclear power, we respect the choice of other Member States and the Agency's statutory obligations. We also recognize the interest of an increasing 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.

One interesting field of activity in this regard is the ongoing work on multilateral assurances of supply of nuclear fuel. Having followed with interest the discussions in Vienna as well as in the NPT Review Conference of this issue, we have come to the conclusion that such assurances can have important advantages in terms of non-proliferation in view of the growing demand for nuclear power. Therefore Denmark - together with our partners in the EU - is ready to support a multilateral proliferation-safe mechanism for assurance of supply of nuclear fuel for those states that have chosen the nuclear power option. This is why Denmark supported the initiative of the Russian Federation to establish a physical reserve of Low Enriched Uranium in Angarsk.

We recognize that some Member States still have concerns about the implications of such mechanisms. We believe that the time has come to try to address concerns and solve problems through practical implementation of a specific project. We hope that the Board of Governors, on which Denmark is currently serving, will

very soon be able to come to a positive decision regarding the proposal to set up an IAEA LEU Bank.

Mr. President,

Allow me to reiterate Denmark's appreciation for the highly professional work of the IAEA also in the field of nuclear safety and technical cooperation on peaceful applications. Denmark has, again this year, pledged its full contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund in order to support the Agency's work to combat hunger, disease and poverty. We consider it highly relevant that the Director General has chosen to focus strongly on fighting cancer in developing countries. With regard to safety, we are looking forward to hosting an IAEA Workshop on safety assessment for decommissioning this October and to sharing our experience in this field with interested Member States.

Mr. President,

The world will continue to rely on the IAEA for expertise and support in all its fields of activities. I wish to conclude by thanking the Director General and all his dedicated staff members for their invaluable contribution to building a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you, Mr. President