

IAEA 56th General Conference 17-21 September 2012

Statement by Denmark

as delivered by Ambassador Uffe Balslev

Under-Secretary for Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control

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

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

Denmark, like all other Member States, relies on the IAEA in a number of fields high on the international agenda. The IAEA's central role in the world's effort to prevent nuclear proliferation remains at the centre of our attention. Equally, the IAEA's recognized mandate in the fields of nuclear safety and nuclear security is of pivotal importance, and increasingly so. Let me say a few words about each of these issues.

In the field of nuclear non-proliferation, the IAEA, with its highly professional and dedicated staff and through its inspection procedures, works 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. We also fully support the IAEA's efforts to further develop the state-level safeguards concept in order to be as effective as possible.

Mr. President

The UN Security Council also has a key responsibility for non-proliferation. Denmark continues to fully support Security Council Resolutions 1887 and 1540. 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, the Director General's November 2011 report set out what the Agency termed overall credible information indicating that Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device. This is a matter of grave concern. Iran's ongoing and expanding enrichment activities, including to a level of 20%, exacerbate our concern. We urge Iran to comply fully with all resolutions of the Security Council, the Board of Governors and with its safeguards agreement so that confidence in the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities can be restored. The most recent Board of Governors resolution, adopted last week, further underscores the need for Iran urgently to step up its cooperation with the Agency.

As regards Syria, Denmark noted with serious concern the conclusion of the Agency, recently confirmed, that the destroyed building at Dair Alzour was very likely a nuclear reactor and should have been declared by Syria. We join the Director General in urging Syria to fully implement its Safeguards Agreement and 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. We consider this matter to be of central importance for the credibility of the international non-proliferation verification regime.

With regard to 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 all its international obligations and commitments as well as to allow an early return of IAEA inspectors.

Turning to the issue of nuclear safety, the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant last year demonstrated the need for the international community to come together to substantially strengthen nuclear safety around the world. The adoption of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety one year ago was a step forward as it set out commitments on the part of Member States and the Secretariat. We welcome the efforts made by the Secretariat since then towards implementation of the Plan, including devoting financial and human resources to this end. Nonetheless, we continue to see a need to further strengthen some aspects of nuclear safety efforts, in particular peer review mechanisms and IAEA safety inspections and binding safety standards.

While many of the action points included in the Plan primarily affect countries with nuclear power programmes, Denmark, for its part, has also taken steps to implement relevant parts of it. We are currently in the process of reviewing our set-up for emergency response as far as preparedness, capacities and agreements regarding international assistance are concerned. The lessons learned from Fukushima are part and parcel of this review. The aim is to achieve a more robust operative preparedness regime. There is also an ongoing process to review the setup pertaining to the national regulatory body. Furthermore, in 2011 and 2012 we have achieved a strengthened national nuclear system, with strong quality controls, to permanently monitor radiation levels in Denmark and Greenland. This is a central part of our nuclear preparedness system. We exchange the radiological monitoring data collected with a number of other countries, including through the European Radiological Data Exchange Platform (EURDEP).

Mr. President,

Denmark highly values the IAEA's work on nuclear security. The need to protect ourselves against nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts involving nuclear material is ever higher on the world's agenda, and rightly so. Denmark is pleased to have been able to make a substantial contribution this year to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund and is committed to working to ensure that the Fund has sufficient resources, including from the regular budget, to step up its work to help all Member States protect themselves and each other against nuclear terrorism. Following the fruitful Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, we now need to focus on collectively defining priorities for our work on nuclear security in time for the Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands in 2014. Denmark is proud of its number 1 rank among countries without nuclear materials in the NTI's Nuclear

Materials Security Index and stands ready to share relevant experiences with interested partners. We look forward to hosting an IAEA workshop on Stakeholder Involvement and Communication in Remediation Projects later this year.

Mr. President,

Following the successful conduct of the NPT Review Conference in 2010 it is important that we all prioritize the implementation of the Action Plan adopted there and avoid steps that might jeopardize this work. We support the IAEA in its role in terms of the Action Plan, and we welcome the success of last November's IAEA Forum relating to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. We believe that this Forum can provide valuable input, including on the way to the 2012 Conference mandated by the NPT Review Conference on establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in that region. We appreciate the helpful spirit of directly involved countries and regional organisations demonstrated by refraining from introducing elements that could be detrimental to the process.

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 for electricity generation, we respect the choice of other Member States and the Agency's statutory obligations. We also recognize 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.

Mr. President,

Allow me to reiterate Denmark's appreciation for the highly professional work of the IAEA also in the field of 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, this year, on the use of nuclear techniques to achieve food security.

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