

IAEA 57th General Conference 16-20 September 2013

Statement by Denmark

as delivered by Ambassador Uffe Balslev

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

Thank you 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 for your endeavours.

Denmark fully associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by Lithuania 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 effectively 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 are very pleased to have concluded, this year, an Additional Protocol for Greenland and thank the Secretariat for all its assistance during that process. We also fully support the IAEA's efforts to further develop the state-level safeguards concept in order to optimize safeguards implementation.

Let me underline that Denmark shares the vision of a world without nuclear weapons. We consider the IAEA safeguards system, along with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to be indispensable instruments in that regard. We also consider the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones to be helpful steps towards the implementation of that vision. Following the successful conduct of the latest 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 regret that it was not possible to convene, in 2012, a Conference on the Establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East. We call on all states in the region to help create the conditions for the convening of the conference as soon as possible.

Mr. President

In addition to the NPT and the IAEA, The UN Security Council has a key responsibility for non-proliferation. Denmark fully supports 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. We look forward to the upcoming meeting between the Agency and Iran and strongly hope that this will mark the beginning of intensified Iranian cooperation with the IAEA.

As regards Syria and for a moment setting aside the recent, most disturbing atrocious events there, 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.

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Turning to the issue of **nuclear security**, the successful Ministerial Conference held in June reflected the central role that the IAEA plays in helping states to protect themselves and each other against nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts involving nuclear material from weapons or peaceful uses. As my Foreign Minister said in the Conference, no agency plays a more fundamental role than the International Atomic Energy Agency in ensuring increased global security in the nuclear field.

We welcome the approval by the Board of Governors of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014-2017 which will further strengthen the impact of the IAEA in this field. We are pleased to have been able to contribute financially to the implementation of the Plan and remain committed to ensuring that the Nuclear Security Fund has sufficient funds, including from the regular budget, to operate effectively. Looking forward, the Nuclear Security Summit to be held in the Hague in 2014 will be another opportunity to harness the international community's resources and give

further momentum to comprehensive efforts to enhance nuclear security worldwide.

Mr. President

Nuclear safety is yet another area where common challenges require common responses. The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant continues to demonstrate the need for substantially strengthening nuclear safety around the world. Since the adoption of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety two years ago the Secretariat and many member states have worked diligently 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. In that regard, we encourage member states to make full use of the IAEA review services and call for further transparency as regards the results.

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. Thus we seek to improve our emergency preparedness system and resources within the nuclear area. Denmark is currently reorganizing our preparedness regime in order to achieve a higher level of awareness and coordination among the various national authorities involved in emergency planning. Also in 2013 Denmark has continued to strengthen our nuclear system permanently monitoring radiation levels in Denmark and Greenland. Furthermore the Danish Government has made a broad political

agreement for the Danish preparedness for 2013-2014, where it has decided to strengthen cooperation with our Nordic neighbouring countries within the nuclear area. During 2012 where Denmark held the Presidency of the European Union, Denmark gave priority to bringing important issues forward in relation to nuclear safety and nuclear security.

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 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. I would also like to express the Kingdom of Denmark's appreciation of the substantive advice and support that we have received from the Secretariat for our deliberations about potential uranium mining in Greenland.

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. As a maritime country, we welcome the choice of this year's topic for the Scientific Forum, The Blue Planet - Nuclear Applications for a Sustainable Marine Environment

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