

60th IAEA General Conference

26 - 30 September 2016

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. Denmark associates itself with the EU statement delivered earlier.

At this anniversary General Conference, I want to reaffirm the full support of the Kingdom of Denmark to the IAEA. Multilateral organisations are the stronghold of rules-based international cooperation, providing security and a better world for all. The IAEA is a prime example of this.

This week is significant in the relationship between the Kingdom of Denmark and the IAEA. We are grateful for the assistance that we have received from the IAEA in our preparations for uranium extraction. On Monday, the Minister for Industry, Labour and Trade and Foreign Affairs of Greenland (Naalakkersuisoq Vittus Qujaukitsoq) and I submitted two instruments to the Director General, which means that Greenland is now covered by two further IAEA Conventions. This underlines our determination to ensure that any future uranium extraction in Greenland is fully in line with the highest international standards, most notably the IAEA's. The two instruments relate to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

We have benefitted from the IAEA's highly professional expert advice and training on safeguards, safety and security issues and we thank the Director General and his staff warmly for all the assistance provided so far. The most recent example is the IAEA's participation in a seminar just last month on Developing a Kingdom System of Accountancy and Control for Greenlandic Uranium. We will continue to rely on the IAEA.

Mr. President

The IAEA contributes significantly to our common security. This year has seen Implementation Day of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed to ensure the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. We welcome the ongoing implementation of the agreement. But it takes time to build confidence, and it takes information. For the JCPoA truly to be a testimony to the power of diplomacy and rules-based cooperation – which is what we all want – it needs to be rigorously implemented for its full lifetime. And as Member States we need to be provided with sufficient and regular

information on how it is implemented. The IAEA has Denmark's full support in this matter and, more broadly, in its efforts to prevent any spread of nuclear weapons anywhere.

In that regard, we strongly condemn the DPRK's most recent nuclear test and underline the essential role the IAEA must play in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme. The DPRK must abandon its nuclear programme and live up to all its international obligations. Syria also has to meet its obligations.

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 believe that nuclear technology can make a significant contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. President

We also look to the Agency to provide standards and guidance on nuclear safety and security. These are issues that affect us all profoundly. Any accident or incident can have cross-border effects and thus we have a clear interest in promoting nuclear security and nuclear safety worldwide.

Denmark is pleased to offer its contribution to international cooperation in this field. We are proud to be the 30th Member State to register a capability to RANET, the IAEA's Response and Assistance Network. We now offer to the IAEA various resources, including foot and vehicle based field teams with radiation survey and source search capabilities as well as radiological assessments and advice via external base support. Denmark has trained and exercised these capabilities intensively over the last years, and we are confident that we can make a difference in case of a nuclear or radiological emergency.

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. Denmark is a significant contributor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. We look forward to the high-level IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in December and hope this will give further impetus to the promotion of nuclear security and to providing the IAEA with adequate resources for its work in this field.

We warmly welcome the entry-into-force this year of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. While now focusing on the implementation of this instrument, we should also analyse the need for and feasibility of further steps to close the gaps in the international legal framework covering 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 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 2017. In a world of rapid technological development, we want to contribute to the IAEA's capacity to make the peaceful uses of nuclear technology available to foster development and growth.

Mr. President

These are turbulent times. We need the IAEA as part of the international system of rules-based cooperation. We are pleased to know that Director General Amano is available for a further term in office. Continuity at this crucial point serves us well; we look forward to a smooth appointment process.

In closing let me thank most sincerely the Director General and his dedicated staff for their invaluable contribution to building a safer and more prosperous world. We look forward to our cooperation with them as members of the Board of Governors from now on as well as to working with our fellow Board members to advance the mandate of the IAEA.

Thank you, Mister President