

IAEA 53rd General Conference 14-18 September 2009

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

Madam President,

Denmark fully associates itself with the intervention of Sweden on behalf of the European Union. In support of this I would like to add a few points on a national basis.

The world depends, and will continue to depend, on the IAEA to prevent nuclear proliferation. The organisation is a dedicated, trusted and highly professional actor whose contribution is essential. Its inspection procedures not only serve to verify peaceful use of nuclear technologies in general but also enable States to clear themselves of any particular suspicion of wrong-doing through full and unrestricted cooperation with the Agency.

However, the IAEA can only be as effective as its tools allow it to be. Some states have developed secret nuclear programs even with Comprehensive Safeguards agreements in force. Therefore, it is important that all states recognize that the current IAEA verification standard is constituted by adherence to a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with an Additional Protocol.

Madam President, the IAEA's non-proliferation efforts are part of a broader perspective including the NPT, the UN Security Council, export controls and several other initiatives all serving to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is a cornerstone of these efforts. Last May we were encouraged by the improved atmosphere at the third and final Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference in 2010. We sense and strongly support a determination among participants that the Conference should have a constructive outcome in 2010 and bring us closer to a world without nuclear arms.

The UN Security Council also has a key responsibility for non-proliferation. Denmark supports the increased attention to proliferation issues by the Security Council, both thematically and with respect to specific cases. The adoption in 2004 of Security Council Resolution 1540 was a fundamental step forward in this respect. The Security Council debate on NPT scheduled for next week under the chairmanship of President Obama is the latest example of this trend.

General resolutions and thematic debates aside, it is of the utmost importance that all States comply with their obligations as set forth in UN Security Council resolutions on specific issues.

In relation to Iran, Denmark continues to support a consistent approach in the Security Council process. The latest Iran report by the IAEA Director General concluded, (and I quote,) "that Iran has neither implemented the Additional Protocol nor cooperated with the Agency in connection with the remaining issues

of concern which need to be clarified to exclude the possibility of military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program" (end of quote). We share the serious concern expressed by the Director General and urge Iran to take the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors and the Security Council in order to create confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, and to allow for negotiations.

Concerning Syria, we noted the latest IAEA-report, where the Director General urges Syria to cooperate fully with the Agency. We call upon Syria to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol as soon as possible as a means to strengthen the confidence of the international community about the peaceful nature of Syria's nuclear activities.

A relatively new challenge is the threat posed by proliferation to non-state actors such as terrorists. The IAEA's work in the area of nuclear security is crucial. Denmark is committed to securing that sufficient resources are given to the Nuclear Security Fund towards this work and welcomes the agreement reached to devote increased regular budget resources to Nuclear Security. Denmark will also continue to financially support the Nuclear Security Fund on a voluntary basis. In the coming years we will focus on activities in Asian countries.

Madam President, as underlined by the 1540 Resolution nuclear and other radioactive materials must not fall into the hands of terrorists. To prevent this, and to prevent proliferation in general, it is necessary to exercise strict export controls on a non-discriminatory basis. To this effect my country cooperates with partners in the European Union and the NSG. We also cooperate with PSI partners on

preventing illegal transfers of weapons and materials that may be misused for developing weapons of mass destruction. With this in mind we hosted a Nordic-Baltic regional meeting earlier this month in Copenhagen. We encourage all States to participate in such efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

Let me now turn to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Denmark has taken the stance that nuclear power is not a sustainable form of energy and that it should not be included in our own energy planning. While respecting the opinion and choice of others and noting the role of the IAEA as stipulated in the Statute, we are, therefore, not in favour of a promotional role for the Agency in this field.

With this in mind Denmark has had some reservations towards the various ideas for setting up a multilateral, nuclear fuel assurance mechanism. However, the renewed interest in nuclear energy is a fact that must be taken into account. We consider it important to ensure that an expansion of civilian nuclear power does not result in a further spread of sensitive nuclear fuel cycle technologies that could be used for military purposes. 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. We welcome the Director General's proposal for the establishment of an IAEA LEU bank and other proposals brought before the Board of Governors and look forward to discussing these with a view to finding responses to open questions and concerns.

Allow me to conclude by underlining Denmark's continued support for the IAEA's comprehensive work to ensure a high level of nuclear safety and security

worldwide. We commend Director General ElBaradei for his dedication to the Agency over the past 12 years and look forward to working with incoming Director General Amano whose commitment to the issues dealt with by the IAEA is impressive. Denmark looks forward to serving in the Board of Governors for the next two years.

Thank you, Madam President.