

**Statement from Canada  
by H. E. Mr. Paul Dubois  
Head of Delegation  
Ambassador to Austria  
Governor on the Agency's Board of Governors  
Permanent Representative to the Agency**

**Allocution du Canada  
par S.E. Monsieur Paul Dubois  
Chef de la délégation  
Ambassadeur en Autriche  
Gouverneur au Conseil des gouverneurs de l'Agence  
Resident permanent auprès de l'Agence**

**44th Session of the IAEA General Conference  
44e Session de la Conférence générale de l'AIEA**

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Mercredi, le 20 septembre 2000**

Mr. President, on behalf of the delegation of Canada, please accept our congratulations on your election as President of the 44<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

We also wish to welcome Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and the Central African Republic as the newest Member States of the LABA.

Mr. President, I will focus on various aspects of the Agency's "Three Pillars" of safeguards, safety and assistance to Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The Agency must continue to focus sharply on these core areas to remain effective and relevant. I would also like to highlight several significant developments over the past year that are indicative of our strong commitment to this important international organization.

First of all, however, I would like to return to two key decisions made at the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Conference. I am pleased to advise that last week Canada submitted its Instruments of Acceptance to the United States, as the depository government, for the amendments to Articles VI and XIV of the Statute. We encourage other Member States to take timely action so these changes can be implemented soon.

### **NPT Review Conference and the IAEA**

Mr. President, this is the first General Conference of the new millennium. We enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century with cautious optimism, thanks to the success of the NPT Review Conference and other recent glimmers of hope in the global arms control and disarmament agenda. The numerous references to the IABA in the Final Document adopted at the NPT Review Conference are a strong reiteration of international support for the Agency and a reaffirmation of the fundamental importance of its Three Pillars. It is well deserved recognition.

We also welcome the bilateral agreement recently signed by the United States and Russia on the management and disposition of plutonium no longer required for defense purposes. Canada believes that the Agency can play a key role in effectively verifying the irreversibility of all aspects of plutonium disposition called for in this historic agreement, provided acceptable arrangements are developed to do so. Transparency is essential for the credibility of nuclear disarmament and the Agency is well placed to verify that this material is never again used for military purposes.

These are positive developments, but the multilateral nuclear nonproliferation regime continues to face serious challenges. We continue to be concerned that four LABA Member States — India, Pakistan, Israel and Cuba — have yet to sign the NPT. We strongly urge them to heed the call in the NPT Final Document to do so promptly without conditions as non-nuclear weapon states.

We remain seriously concerned about the situation in South Asia following the nuclear tests in 1998 and the lack of progress by India and Pakistan in meeting the “benchmarks” of UNSC Resolution 1172. Early signature of the CTBT, in accordance with their pledges to do so, would be an important and positive step forward. We are concerned that the Agency remains unable to provide any assurance of Iraq’s compliance with its obligations under UNSC Resolutions 687 and 1284 and underscore the importance of Iraq’s full continuous cooperation with the IABA. Canada welcomes the positive developments which have unfolded on the Korean Peninsula and in July we formally recognized the DPRK. We continue to urge the DPRK to make available to the LABA all information needed to verify the correctness and completeness of its initial declaration of nuclear material under its safeguards agreement with the Agency, which remains binding and in force.

### **Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Power**

Mr. President, the Agency must continue to play a leading role in improving nuclear safety and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which are two core pillars of the IABA. Safety has to be the over-riding objective for all nuclear activities. As the Director General has rightly emphasized, nuclear safety, together with the safe management of nuclear fuel waste, has a great influence on public confidence in nuclear energy and must be priority areas of activity.

I am pleased to note that on May 31 Canada implemented the new Nuclear Safety and Control Act, which among other changes transformed the existing regulatory board into the new Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. These changes, the most important implemented in Canada in over 50 years, represent a significant strengthening of our legal and regulatory regime. They are another clear demonstration of our unequivocal commitment to the highest levels of nuclear safety, safeguards and security.

Mr. President, Canada is firmly committed to international cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with the objectives of the IAEA and the NPT. I am pleased to note in this regard that Canada recently committed Cdn \$5 million for the development of an International Training and Demonstration Facility for nuclear fuel waste management and disposal. The facility will be based at Canada’s Underground Research Laboratory at Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, where international collaboration has been underway for many years. We look forward to the active participation of the Agency and interested Member States.

We also welcome the decision of Ukraine to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on December 15 and support efforts by the Agency to help facilitate its safe and secure decommissioning. My government has committed US\$33 million to this vitally important project and we look forward to continued progress on the Shelter Implementation Plan. We encourage all Member States to make a financial contribution.

Canada remains firmly committed to the use of nuclear power, which provides about 15% of our electricity requirements. We believe nuclear power contributes meaningfully to climate change by mitigating global greenhouse gases and makes a significant contribution to a country's sustainable energy supply mix for those countries that choose to use it. Indeed, without it, our greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector would be 50% higher. Work is continuing on the restart of laid-up nuclear plants in our Province of Ontario. Their return to service will be instrumental in helping us to meet our commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

### **Safeguards**

Mr. President, the NPT Review Conference reiterated that IABA safeguards are a fundamental pillar of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. It also reaffirmed that the IABA, through its safeguards system, is the competent authority responsible for verifying that there is no diversion of nuclear material from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Canada strongly supports the IABA safeguards system and efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of safeguards. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that on September 8 the Additional Protocol entered into force in Canada. This is a clear demonstration of our strong commitment to non-proliferation and safeguards. We urge other Member States that have not yet done so to demonstrate their unequivocal commitment to non-proliferation by signing and implementing a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Mr. President, Canada places considerable importance on completing development and proceeding with the timely implementation of integrated safeguards. We look forward to the more qualitative and flexible approach that integrated safeguards will provide and welcome the support this initiative enjoys from the Agency and many Member States. Its success is very important if we are to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Agency safeguards and to achieve cost-neutrality in the Safeguards budget. Canada appreciates the Agency's efforts to consult with Member States and we will continue to play an active role in the further development of this important initiative.

The financing of safeguards is another issue that has received considerable attention recently. We appreciate the many challenges that the Safeguards Program faces and believe it is one area in particular that could benefit from a realignment of Agency resources. We welcome the new

arrangements that have been reached on shielding that will eventually result in all Member States paying their full share of the cost of safeguards.

Mr. President, the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities is also an integral part of an effective international nuclear nonproliferation regime. Canada believes that the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material is in need of strengthening by extending its coverage to include, among other things, the physical protection of nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport. We will continue to participate actively in the process now underway which we hope will lead to improvements to the Convention.

### **Technical Co-operation**

Mr. President, the Agency's technical cooperation program is a major activity that Canada strongly endorses. I am pleased to advise that Canada has made a voluntary contribution to the 2000 Technical Cooperation Fund in the amount of Cdn. \$2.34 million, which has been paid in full.

The technical cooperation program continues to realize significant accomplishments in a challenging environment. This includes a record level of total resources last year and a high implementation rate -- nearly 75%. We fully support the continuing efforts to improve the management and delivery of the program, such as the use of global performance indicators, to ensure that it meets the needs and objectives of Member States in an effective a manner as possible.

Nevertheless, as a large contributor to the Technical Co-operation Fund (TCF), Canada continues to have concerns about the program and its funding. We are disappointed that contributions for 2000 appear to be less than anticipated.

Therefore, Mr. President, we understand why the financing of technical co-operation has again been the focus of so much attention in recent months. This concern is well justified. We welcome the decision to freeze the target of the TCF at its current level for 2001 and 2002 as part of the new approach that has been adopted, which we hope will do more to resolve fundamental problems. These include the non-payment of contributions by many Member States and the need to broaden the base of contributors. Much could also be gained from the best practices of voluntary funds of other major multilateral organizations.

### **Management and Resource Issues**

Mr. President, the NPT Review Conference again recognized the need to ensure that the IABA has the resources necessary to meet effectively its various responsibilities, which we fully support. Canada also believes that it is incumbent on the Agency, for its part, to ensure that it uses its available resources in the most effective and efficient manner possible. In addition, the funding and resource questions associated with the IABA's participation in any significant new initiatives must be

satisfactorily addressed before the Agency undertakes such activities.

Canada maintains a policy of Zero Nominal Growth in the budgets of international organizations, a standard we continue to urge the Agency to meet. While not unsympathetic to the many demands on the Agency, we are not convinced that incremental resources are necessary. We welcome the significant progress the LABA has made in many areas in cutting costs and improving efficiency. Canada believes further savings are possible in most areas without adversely affecting the Agency's activities.

Canada welcomes the Agency's new results-based approach to development of the program and budget, which involves a greater reliance on evaluation activities and performance indicators. We look forward to contributing to the further refinement of this approach before it is implemented for the 2002-2003 biennium. Every effort must also be made to ensure that the programming and budget process is as transparent and responsive as possible and to minimize overlap and duplication of activities with other international organizations.

Mr. President, effective leadership is essential. We fully support the various initiatives that the Director General has taken to improve the management and operation of the Agency and encourage him to continue the process of reform. We also believe the Agency would benefit by demonstrating greater flexibility in the management of its resources, in particular the reallocation of resources among major programs in recognition of changing priorities. This would reinforce the "one-house" approach, which the Director-General has championed.

## **Conclusion**

Mr. President, I conclude our Statement by expressing Canada's optimism at the dawn of a new century for the Agency and its activities. Canada is committed to actively working with the Secretariat and with other Member States to ensure achieve progress on the Agency's Three Pillars. On this basis, and through the careful management and efficient use of its existing resources and the constructive engagement of its members, we believe the Agency can help us all maximize benefits from the peaceful use of nuclear technology and nuclear energy.