

STATEMENT BY MR. ZHANG HUAZHU,  
HEAD OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION TO  
THE 44 TH SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

Mr. President,

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, to extend warm congratulations on your election to the presidency of the current General Conference. I am convinced that your experience and diplomatic talent will lead this conference to a full success. At the meanwhile, I'd like to take this opportunity to present compliments to the Director General Dr. ElBaradei and delegations of all Member States, and our warm welcome to delegations of new Members, namely, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Azerbaijan Republic and the Central African Republic.

Mr. President,

This General Conference, held at the turn of the century, is of special significance. As is known to all, nuclear energy is one of the most important discoveries of the 20th century. IAEA was born between opportunities and challenges to make nuclear energy benefit it the common prosperity and development of mankind and effectively contain the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Bearing the important missions granted by the Statute, the Agency has made universally acknowledged achievements on nuclear non-proliferation on the one hand, and peaceful application of nuclear energy on the other, with the joint efforts of Member States and the Secretariat for the past more than 40 years. With the number of Member States increased from about 20 at the early stage to the present more than 130, the Agency has expanded its mission field to every aspect of nuclear energy and technology, including nuclear power, fuel cycle, the application of nuclear technology in industry, agriculture, human health and environmental protection, nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards. Its function and operation has won the Agency high compliments of the international community.

At the meanwhile, however, we ought to come to the clear understanding that the development of the Agency's work is evidently unbalanced with over-emphasis on one aspect to the neglect of the other. While strengthening its function in non-proliferation, the Agency didn't give due attention to the developing Member States I justifiable requirements on peaceful application of nuclear energy, and even showed the tendency to move a part of promotion activities out of it. The Chinese Delegation, like many other delegations, can not but show concerns and anxiety over it.

The past experience could serve as guidance for the present. The history of the Agency fully indicates that it could develop activities in a healthy way and obtain general support from Member States only by faithfully adhering to the philosophy and principles specified in the Statute and maintaining the balance

between its two major functions. The Chinese Delegation sincerely wishes that the Agency would continue to follow the direction specified by the Statute and make new contribution to the peaceful application of nuclear energy for mankind.

Now, I would like to present the Chinese Delegation's views on the important issues the Agency is facing.

#### 1. The Importance of Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Technology to the World's Sustainable Development and the Role of the Agency

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century witnessed rapid advancement of science and technology and innumerable achievements, as well as excessive exploitation of resources, which leads to severe threat against mankind is living environment. We shall avoid the same old trap and take the way of sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. How to proceed from the strategy of sustainable development to develop and utilize new energy and control and reduce the greenhouse effects and environmental pollution caused by fossil energy is an issue facing every country in the process of developing economy and increasing energy supply. More than 40 years of experience has proved that nuclear energy is clean, safe and economical. Nuclear power accounts for one sixth of the world's power generation at present. In the long run, nuclear energy should play an important role in the future, and the Agency, as the only inter-governmental organization in nuclear field, shall take its unshirkable responsibility to this issue. The Chinese Delegation holds that the Agency is able to fulfil at least the following 4 missions:

- a. Utilizing the advantages of the Agency to scientifically assess and objectively popularize the function of nuclear energy in the world's sustainable development.
- b. Organizing information exchange and technology difficulty tacklement to settle the public's common concern on nuclear safety and disposal of radioactive wastes;
- c. Coordinating the R&D work of the Member States to make technological preparation for the new generation NPP and
- d. Strengthening talents training and helping developing countries establish and improve nuclear infrastructure.

The Chinese experts are willing to make in-depth discussion with other Member States and the Secretariat.

Nuclear technology is also peculiarly applied to industry, agriculture, human health, water resource development and environmental protection, which are closely related to sustainable development. The Chinese Delegation holds that the Agency shall devote more efforts to these fields to meet the requirements of the developing Member States. We urge the developed countries to do more in transferring technology and providing expert service to the developing countries while increasing TC contribution.

## 2. Nuclear Safety and Disposal of Nuclear Waste

The safety of nuclear facilities and nuclear waste disposal is the major issue arousing the public's doubt on nuclear energy and requiring urgent settlement to promote the development of nuclear energy. The Agency has already done a lot of beneficial work in this aspect. After the accidents of Three Mile Island and Chernobyl in particular, the Agency played an indispensable role in drafting international conventions and various kinds of safety standards, and helping east European and former USSR countries improve nuclear safety. Recently, the Agency, together with relevant UN specialized agencies, held a conference and made a scientific conclusion to the aftermath of Chernobyl accident, which is important to clarify facts and eliminate effects of false opinions. In the aspect of nuclear waste disposal, the Agency also made a lot of effort, including holding scientific forum during the current Assembly. The Chinese Delegation believes the Agency, as an authoritative international organization, could make much accomplishment in this field, especially in giving objective publicity to the issue of nuclear safety and nuclear waste disposal to clarify the public's fake opinion, improving international conventions and standards on nuclear safety and strengthening technological exchange to help Member States promote their nuclear safety level.

The issue of radiation sources safety and security aroused attention of all Member States in recent years. Relevant resolutions have been adopted in the 42nd and 43rd General Assemblies, and the Action Plan initiated. Technology and law experts from Member States participated in a conference held in Vienna last July in which the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Radiation Sources and the Security of Radioactive Material "was drafted. The Chinese Delegation holds this document, which is well composed, is of important significance to strengthening management of radiation sources and ensuring the safety of the public and the environment, and supports taking the Code of Conduct" as a guiding document for the reference of Member States in drafting related domestic regulations.

## 3. Establishing a Reliable Shield for Non-Proliferation

In the NPT 2000 Review Conference held in last May, the signatory states fully affirmed the Agency's significant role in preventing nuclear proliferation. The Agency's Safeguards operation evolved from Single Safeguards, Overall Safeguards to Strengthened Safeguards in the past more than 40 years. The Agency has completed the Program 93+2" aiming at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Safeguard System, and reached consensus on technical solutions and model text of Safeguards Agreement after 4 years' efforts. At present, the Secretariat is speeding up the studies on safeguards integration which has been given priority with the support of Member States. Many Member States, including China, have signed Additional Protocol to Safeguards Agreement with the Agency. All this deserves commendation. The Chinese Delegation supports the Agency in further strengthening safeguards and establishing a reliable non-proliferation shield within its mandate. At the meanwhile, we hold that establishing a stable and mutual confident security environment in the world is the fundamental assurance to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation, promoting international cooperation is an effective method to settle the issue, removing double or multiple standard is prerequisite to the success of

non-proliferation, and non-proliferation shall be supplementary to promotion activities instead of hampering Member States' justifiable rights to peaceful application of nuclear energy.

The US-Russia bilateral nuclear disarmament has achieved significant progress since the end of Cold War, and the verification of the dismantled nuclear material caught concerns from every side.

At present, US, Russia and the Secretariat are making studies on issues of technology, law and cost related to verification of the dismantled nuclear materials of the two countries. The Chinese Delegation is looking forward to the Secretariat's report on this subject to the Board. We hold that the Agency's verification activities shall strictly follow the mandate granted by the Statute and international legal documents like NPT, and the Agency's role in nuclear disarmament verification shall be decided only through negotiations of all sides on related international legal documents. To prevent illegal trafficking of and to take strict and effective physical protection of nuclear material is a common concern of the international community. China has faithfully fulfilled its obligations as a signatory state to the Nuclear Material Physical Protection Convention. The Board of Governors, under the requirements of some Member States, authorized the Director General to call up experts from Member States to discuss the necessity of modifying the Convention last year. The Chinese Delegation holds that the physical protection of nuclear materials is mainly the responsibility of the governments, who have formulated their respective regulations and adopted necessary measures by referring to the Agency's relevant standards and their national situation. We hold it's not the appropriate time now to lay down bounding regulations on the physical protection of nuclear materials within a country in the form of international legal document, considering the differences of every country's specific situation. The conditions for modifying the Convention are not mature by far. The Chinese Delegation is willing to exchange views with other Member States concerned on this issue.

#### 4. Developing Cooperation with Other Organizations

It is natural for the Agency, an international organization of sovereign states inside the UN system, to develop cooperative relations with other international organizations of UN. And the Agency would also establish and develop mutual-beneficial cooperation with other international or regional or non-governmental organizations. The Chinese Delegation maintains that the following principles shall be followed in establishing or developing the above-mentioned relations:

- a. The procedures of the Statute shall be strictly abided by;
- b. Cooperation with any other organization shall not hinder the Agency's functions or jeopardize interests of Member States, the Agency's independence and the integration of its work;
- c. All Member States of the Agency shall equally enjoy all of the achievements resulted from such cooperation, given the difference of membership of different organizations.

The Chinese Delegation wish the above suggestions and those proposed by other delegations would be fully reflected in the cooperation framework between the Agency and other international organizations.

Mr. President,

The new century brings us new hopes and new challenges. We are confident that the IAEA, as an organization full of vitality, will continue to do new contribution to the peaceful application of nuclear energy for mankind.

Thank you, Mr. President.