

**IAEA 44th General Conference (Sept. 2000)**  
**Statement by Denmark**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Danish delegation I should like to join speakers before me in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and to thank you for assuming these burdensome tasks. Let me also join the warm welcome to the three new members of the IAEA, Azerbajdjan, the Central African Republic and Tadjikistan.

I associate myself fully with the statement made by the distinguished Head of Delegation of France on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I should like to make some remarks on behalf of Denmark.

At the outset, Mr. President, I wish to highlight the outcome of the NPT Review Conference held earlier this year in New York. As a fully committed State Party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Denmark was pleased to join the work of the Conference.

Denmark attaches great importance to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone of global non-proliferation and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. The outcome of the Review Conference was a clear reconfirmation of those universal principles. Denmark strongly supports the call upon those countries not yet parties to the Treaty to join the NPT as soon as possible and without conditions.

The States Parties to the Treaty, not least the Nuclear Weapons States, also confirmed their commitment to nuclear disarmament. This was another important and welcome outcome of the Review Conference.

The Conference also reiterated its recognition that IAEA Safeguards are a fundamental pillar of the international non-proliferation regime and indispensable to ensure the implementation of the NPT.

The Review Conference further endorsed the measures contained in the Model Protocol Additional to Safeguards Agreements, which was adopted by the Board of Governors in May 1997. Once implemented, the measures contained in the Model Protocol will lead to substantial strengthening of the IAEA Safeguards system, and the Agency will be in a greatly enhanced position to detect clandestine nuclear activities in non-nuclear weapon states. We are pleased to note the increasing number of Additional Protocols in force.

Denmark is party to the Additional Protocol which was signed between the Agency, Euratom and the 13 non-nuclear weapon states in the European Union in September 1998. We are doing our best to implement the new obligations in a concerted move with our EU partners this year. We would also strongly urge other Member States to sign and implement Additional Protocols.

As we have stressed in previous years it is still a matter of concern that 50 of the non-nuclear weapon States Parties to the NPT have not even signed the basic safeguards agreements in accordance with treaty obligations. Although some agreements pending may relate to states with no significant nuclear activities, it remains a matter of importance for the universality and credibility of the NPT and the Safeguards System that all states comply with their obligations under the Treaty.

From the beginning of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, supplier countries have recognised responsibility to ensure that such cooperation does not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The principle is enshrined in the NPT and reflected in the multilateral consultation system on nuclear export controls which have taken place after the entry into force of the Treaty in 1970. Effective export control is in fact a precondition for fulfilling the commitment contained in the NPT regarding cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In our view, the Nuclear Suppliers Group plays a particularly important role and has made a very important contribution to the cause of nuclear non-proliferation.

Denmark fully endorses the recommendation by the Review Conference to keep up transparency in the work of the supplier arrangements. In this respect, the two seminars

sponsored by the Nuclear Suppliers Group on export control, which were held in 1997 and 1999 stand as major events leading to a deeper understanding and broader knowledge of the issue among all involved.

Mr. President,

I now turn to the area of nuclear safety, to which the Danish Government attaches the utmost importance.

The problems of safety and waste disposal remain unsolved - in spite of the long span of years that nuclear energy had been known and utilised.

Many nuclear power plants operate at unacceptably low levels of safety and there is still unsatisfactory management of the nuclear waste. In particular, there is no evidence that spent fuel and high level radioactive waste can be safely managed in the long term. For that reason, Denmark belongs to the growing group of countries which cannot support nuclear power as an eligible option in the context of sustainable development.

Denmark supports the endeavours to further strengthen the safety activities and to ensure consistency between the Agency's nuclear, radiation and radioactive waste safety activities. The Agency's assistance in this area to the states of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent states is of paramount importance.

We remain, however, of the opinion that, with respect to certain reactors operating in Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent states, the only defensible solution is a shutdown as soon as possible.

We support the creation of a comprehensive and legally binding safety regime in which the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, as well as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials, constitute main pillars. With regard to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials we support the work going on in order to revise the Convention.

The need to strengthen the nuclear liability regime is a matter of concern for the whole international community. The adoption of amendments to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage are steps in the right direction.

Mr. President,

I said a moment ago that Denmark has decided not to use nuclear power since the safety and the waste storage problems remain unsolved. We are satisfied that other countries think along the same lines. Realising that no sustainable solutions have been found to those problems since the introduction of nuclear power, we find it disturbing that so much effort is spent world-wide in extending its use.

Let me therefore, once again, stress the position of my country:

In our view the Agency's Technical Assistance activities should not be used to the general promotion of nuclear power. In stead, the programmes should be demand driven only, and contribute to ensuring the highest possible safety standards in those countries which themselves have chosen the nuclear option as part of their energy supply or nuclear technology applications in their strive to meet their development needs. This applies especially to the least developed countries among the IAEA's members. Let me also here, once again, underline that: it is with that understanding, we accept the target of 73 million USD for the year 2001 to the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Fund and have already pledged our full share of this target. Denmark urges other Member States to pledge and pay in full their assessed share.

Mr. President,

I have now spoken about all three pillars of the Agency's mandate: Safety, Verification and Technology. However, one cannot do so without touching on the budgetary situation of the Agency. Denmark must insist that high priority activities, such as Safeguards and verification, continue to be financed by the -Agency's core budget.

Denmark also attaches great importance to the issue of sharing of the Safeguards financing. This General Conference is supposed to take a decision since the previous special arrangement will end with this financial year. Denmark supports a solution based on Member States contributing according to the normal UN scale of assessment.

In concluding Denmark's statement, Mr. President, I should like to pay tribute to the competent and devoted work of the DG, Dr. El Baradei and to the highly qualified Staff of the Secretariat.

Thank You, Mr. President