

STATEMENT

by

CANADA

**at the 46th General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, 16 September 2002**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of Canada, please accept our congratulations on your election as President of the 46th General Conference.

We also wish to welcome the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Eritrea and the Republic of Seychelles as the newest members of the IAEA.

Mr. President, my country is very pleased to note that Cuba has decided to formally accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). This decision is a welcome boost to the Treaty and moves it significantly closer to universality. It will help to reinforce the international disarmament and non-proliferation framework that we constructed over the last half century. Canada looks forward to welcoming Cuba as the newest State party to the NPT and to working closely with Cuba at the next meeting of this Review Cycle.

Mr. President, we have witnessed, over the last twelve months, the emergence of heightened international concern about nuclear security and safety, about issues of sustainable development, the environment, climate change and about the security of energy supply. The convergence of these concerns has created an international environment in which the relevance of the IAEA has been greatly enhanced.

In fact, forty five years after its creation, the Agency is now facing new challenges and opportunities, which will require responsiveness and flexibility, vision and innovation, as well as firm leadership. As such, the mutual reinforcement and effective integration of the organization's three pillars must continue to be a vision shared by its members if the IAEA is to continue to play a key role in the future. The Agency must be more than the sum of its parts. My statement will focus on these concerns in an effort to provide a vision of an Agency that is responsive and innovative to the challenges we face.

Nuclear Security and Safety

Mr. President, the events of September 11th have thrust the international security agenda to the forefront of global affairs and with it renewed concerns about nuclear security and safety. The potential theft of nuclear material, the risks of attacks on nuclear installations, as well as the threat of "dirty bombs", radiological dispersion devices and other nuclear-related malevolent acts have all been highlighted in the world's news media. As a result, the IAEA has received much attention in the past year and has provided much reassurance. In taking decisive steps to focus its programmes to address heightened concerns about security and safety, and by informing the public about its mandate and activities in an open and transparent way, the Agency has played an important role in reducing the fears caused by these threats.

In particular, Canada welcomes the comprehensive programme developed by the Agency, in the aftermath of September 11th, to combat the threat posed by nuclear terrorism. We are pleased that the international community has had the opportunity to participate in the elaboration of such an action plan. We believe that it is through the combination of the work of the Agency and the national activities of its Member States that this threat will be successfully addressed. As such, it is important that we acknowledge that nuclear security is the shared responsibility of all States and that all Members of the IAEA should support this initiative. However, we also believe that in order to be sustainable, this programme should be included in the Agency's regular budget. While we are pleased to see signs that the public's concerns about nuclear security are diminishing, we would not want to see waning support for the Agency's work to combat nuclear terrorism.

I am pleased to note that the Agency's efforts in this area have given some impetus to complementary initiatives, notably the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. As this year's host and Chair of the G8 Summit, Canada played a key role in developing this important new programme on which we look forward to working closely with the IAEA as it develops.

Mr. President, the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities is another vital aspect of nuclear security which has received heightened attention in the last twelve months. In this regard, Canada has been actively involved in continuing efforts to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). We have, however, been frustrated in our most recent meeting by the lack of progress. We hope that our next round of negotiations will be more fruitful and lead to an agreement on a well defined amendment to the CPPNM.

Mr. President, the safety and security of radioactive sources is another area which has drawn much public attention. As one of the world's leaders in the export of radioisotopes for medical and industrial purposes, Canada is particularly concerned by this issue. We have recently adopted measures to improve radioactive source identification and source tracking and have undertaken consultations with the United States and Mexico in order to enhance the coordination of activities in this area. We believe that national regulatory infrastructures need to be strengthened to ensure that radioactive sources are safely and securely managed at all times. We welcome the Agency's work in implementing the Revised Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radiation Sources, particularly the recent meeting to identify ways to strengthen the international Code of Conduct for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Protecting these sources against unauthorised use must also be a priority for all States. As such, we will continue to support the Agency's work in this area and encourage other Member States to participate actively in international efforts to raise levels of radiation safety and security.

Mr. President, the Second Review Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety was held earlier this year under the auspices of the Agency. I am pleased to note that Canada was an active participant. However, while the triennial peer review of national safety reports is now proving to be a useful opportunity to share

experiences and practices, and for the parties to the Convention to learn from each other, it is clear that we must continue to avoid any kind of complacency in the area of nuclear safety. Canada urges all States with nuclear energy programmes to ratify the Convention: efforts to improve safety standards worldwide must be sustained. Nuclear safety, just like nuclear security, affects one and all. That is why a strong and transparent commitment to achieve the highest international safety standards is essential to maintain worldwide public confidence in nuclear energy. As such, we call upon all Parties to ensure that their obligations under the Safety Convention are fully implemented. In particular, it is important for national nuclear regulatory bodies to have the adequate authority, competence and financial and human resources to fulfil their responsibilities.

Continuing on the theme of nuclear safety, I am pleased to note the useful work accomplished at the December 2001 Preparatory Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in view of holding the First Review Meeting in November 2003. The implementation of the Joint Convention is a step further in the achievement of high international standards in all aspects of nuclear safety. Canada strongly supports this process and continues to call on those countries with nuclear programmes, who haven't done so, to accede to the Joint Convention in order to benefit from this instrument while ensuring that the safe and effective management of radioactive waste is applied worldwide.

Mr. President, while it is paramount that we continue to give nuclear security and safety due attention, we must also work unrelentingly to strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. A world in which States choose to acquire nuclear weapons and nuclear material for non-peaceful uses is inherently unstable and dangerous. We continue to be concerned that four Member States of the IAEA remain outside of the NPT, the cornerstone of the international legal framework established to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. We urge, in particular, India, Pakistan and Israel to join the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States, unconditionally and without delay.

in addition, while we note that the Government of Iraq has finally indicated it will cooperate with the United Nations and allow weapons inspectors to pursue their work without condition, we continue to be concerned that the IAEA has not been in a position since December 1998 to implement its mandate in Iraq under the relevant United Nations

Security Council resolutions. We look forward to the early return of inspectors, to the full cooperation of Iraqi authorities and to a successful verification that all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have indeed been destroyed. We must continue to work together to ensure that Iraq is in conformity with its international obligations and thereby reinforce the international disarmament and non-proliferation framework that we have constructed over the last half century. Furthermore, we are increasingly concerned that, although the DPRK is a party to the NPT, the Agency is still unable to verify the correctness and completeness of the initial declaration the DPRK has made pursuant to its safeguards agreement with the Agency. Canada remains seized of this issue.

Despite continued resistance on the part of those countries, Canada commends the IAEA for its ongoing efforts to find practical and constructive solutions to all these serious challenges to international peace and security.

Mr. President, we strongly support the Agency's safeguards system which is a fundamental pillar of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We urge Member States who 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. The urgency of this commitment has been greatly heightened by international developments witnessed in the last twelve months and should continue to be a high priority for the Agency and its members.

Canada firmly believes that, in the new international environment, those organizations with an important security role must have the resources they need to perform effectively their responsibilities in this area. The IAEA, because of its safeguards and other security related activities is clearly one of these key organizations. We acknowledge, in this regard, the Director General's concerns regarding the resource challenges faced by the safeguards programme.

Mr. President, Canada places high importance on the development of Integrated Safeguards and applauds the fact that this continues to be a prime focus for the Agency. We note that at the end of 2001 the Agency reached a major milestone by completing the Conceptual Framework for Integrated Safeguards. We are, however, aware that much work remains to be done in order for Integrated Safeguards approaches to yield effective and

efficient implementation at the State level. Canada will pursue its work with the Agency on the development of State-level approaches through the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, including its Safeguards Support Program and other avenues, as appropriate. We also encourage the IAEA to proceed in a timely manner with the application of Integrated Safeguards in those states with an Additional Protocol where assurances can be drawn about the non-diversion of nuclear material from declared activities and the absence of undeclared nuclear material activities. Integrated Safeguards and the Agency's work in this area are prime examples of innovation, which will be the theme of my next comments.

Innovation in the nuclear sector

Mr. President, as Chair of the G8 in 2002, Canada has been particularly seized by questions of poverty and sustainable development, which were among several of the key issues discussed by leaders at the Kananaskis Summit in June. One of the agreements reached in Kananaskis called for G8 countries to work in concert at the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development to produce meaningful partnerships for sustainable development. In Johannesburg world leaders, including Canada, agreed among other things to speedily increase access, in developing countries, to basic requirements such as clean water, sanitation, energy, health care and food security, while ensuring capacity building and using modern technology to bring about development, and while promoting technology transfer, human resource development, education and training to banish underdevelopment.

I believe, Mr. President, that nuclear science and technologies can play an important role in addressing these renewed commitments to the developing areas of the world. As States Parties to the NPT, we have an obligation to facilitate the exchange of nuclear knowledge and equipment for peaceful purposes, and should therefore continue to support the innovative work the Agency is doing in the area of technical cooperation. It is in fact through the delivery of well designed and efficiently implemented projects, such as the Agency's campaign against the tsetse and the African sleeping disease affecting up to half a million people, that nuclear science and technologies can meet human needs. Canada is a strong supporter and a major contributor to the Agency's Technical Cooperation programme. We look forward to continued progress in the implementation of the

programme's result-based management approach. Continued partnerships with regional organizations and increased reliance on local capacities are other areas on which we encourage the Agency to focus.

In this regard, Mr. President, I am pleased to inform you that Canada has made a voluntary contribution to the 2002 Technical Cooperation Fund in the amount of \$ 2.34 million Canadian, which has been paid in full.

Mr. President, continuing on the theme of innovation, I am pleased to note that this year marks the 50th anniversary of Canada's nuclear Crown Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL). It is a time for us to reflect on our achievements and a time to set ourselves new challenges. International concerns regarding security of energy supply, the environment and climate change, the replacement and life extension of operating nuclear power plants, improved economics and advanced reactor designs, all indicate an increasing future role for nuclear power. We also continue to benefit from ongoing advances and new developments in the medical and industrial applications of nuclear technologies. In all of these areas, the Agency has played an extremely important role, which we fully acknowledged. In particular, we welcome the continued and important work of the Technical Working Group on Advanced Heavy Water Reactor Technology.

Looking to the future, we see innovation as absolutely vital to the nuclear industry. A leading example of innovation at work is the Advanced CANDU Reactor (ACR) being designed by AECL. The objective of the ACR Project is to respond to a competitive market demand by achieving a \$1000 US per KW capital cost and a four-year construction schedule.

Much of the innovative thinking and, indeed, the approach to innovation, behind the ACR Project are directly applicable to the Agency's work on innovative reactor designs: INPRO. As such, we have taken a keen interest in this initiative from the start. We are satisfied with the achievements and progress being made, recognizing fully the demanding challenges and high expectations of the project. Canada will continue its support of INPRO, with a particular interest in the approach the project will be taking to address proliferation resistance and safeguardability.

In addition to INPRO and other next generation initiatives, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project, ITER, is well underway. Canada has offered an optimal for ITER, which is one of the largest collaborative Research & Development missions in the world, and we welcome the Agency's efforts to support the project.

Mr. President, in recent years, we have seen an increasing recognition of the need to address issues related to the management of nuclear knowledge. The continued safe use of all nuclear technologies – from nuclear power to medical applications of nuclear techniques – depends on well-trained and capable personnel relying on a sound base of nuclear experience and technology. These two key issues, succession planning and nuclear knowledge preservation, must be adequately managed. My delegation commends the Director General and the Secretariat for their efforts to increase awareness of the need for nuclear knowledge management. We were pleased to participate in the meeting of senior officials on this subject organized by the Agency in June. The consensus view of the meeting was that the Agency has a important role to play in the preservation and enhancement of nuclear knowledge. Canada believes that the Agency should take a lead in facilitating the exchange of information and experiences, raising awareness and providing assistance to Member States in this area. To this end, Canada has submitted a resolution to the Committee of the Whole that calls for the Agency to raise the level of attention, to recognize nuclear knowledge management as a priority and to identify programs and activities to assist Member States. We are also looking forward to the discussion of this subject at the Scientific Forum.

A flexible and Responsive Agency

Mr. President, before concluding I would like to briefly address organizational and managerial issues, which are pertinent to the vision I have presented today, of a responsive, better integrated and innovative Agency.

I believe, in order for the Agency to meet the challenges and respond to the needs of our changing international environment, that flexibility in programme management and resource allocation is essential. It is only through such flexibility that the Agency will be able to adapt to the changing needs of its Members and continue to position itself as a key international organization. It is also through flexibility that the Agency's main programme

components will truly become more mutually reinforcing. I believe the Agency's Programme to combat nuclear terrorism is a good case in point.

Mr. President, I am pleased to note that an external consultant mandated by the Secretariat is currently reviewing the Agency's management practices in view of further improvements. Canada has been a strong supporter of this initiative from the outset and will be making an extrabudgetary contribution to ensure that recommendations made by the consultant in its diagnostic assessment of the needs of the Agency will be adequately implemented and lead to further efficiencies and effectiveness. We welcome the significant progress already achieved by the Secretariat in the implementation of a results-based approach to the development of programme and budget and the use of performance indicators. While these are practical management tools, we understand that their use and application requires time and practice. We anticipate that the management review will provide valuable insights in this regard.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to note that firm and effective leadership is critical to the success of all the Agency's activities and must be sustained. Canada, stands ready, as always, to do its part.

Closing remarks

In closing, Mr. President, allow me to reaffirm Canada's strong commitment to the Agency and its mission to enhance the contribution of nuclear science and technology to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Because it is clear that one of the predominant characteristics of today's international environment is the increasing pace of change, we believe that there will be an increasing set of challenge and opportunities for the IAEA in the future, which will require it to be more responsive and innovative, and to be more than the sum of its parts. We look forward to working with the Agency and its Members towards this goal.

Thank you.