

TURKEY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR H. AYDIN SAHINBAS
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Turkish delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 47. General Conference and extend our best wishes for a successful completion of the Conference under your able guidance.

I would also like to express our appreciation for the Director General Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei whose able leadership made an invaluable contribution to the achievements and the success of the Agency over the last year.

Mr. President,

The projects on new generation nuclear reactors and fuel cycles, like INPRO, will contribute significantly to the nuclear energy policies of the countries that retain nuclear energy as an option for their long-term energy plans. We expect the IAEA to remain committed and continue its activities on this important field utilizing the synergies between INPRO and Generation 4 and provide technical assistance and support for the member states.

We would also like the Agency to encourage the member states that have experience on new generation reactor technologies to co-operate with the other member states within the context of INPRO.

Turkey noted with appreciation the publication of the INPRO phase I-A report and the progress made by the IAEA and the INPRO project member states over the last year. We fully endorse the objectives of INPRO to support safe, sustainable, economic and proliferation resistant use of nuclear technology to meet 21st century energy needs.

Mr.President,

Turkey has always been an ardent supporter of the Agency's efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and the verification mechanisms. We very much value the important and vital role that the Agency carries out in maintaining global nuclear non-proliferation and security regime through the operation of the nuclear safeguards system.

In this regard I would like to express our satisfaction with the Agency's conclusion for 2002 that the nuclear material and other items placed under safeguards remained in peaceful activities or adequately accounted for, with the exception of the nuclear material in the DPRK.

The developments of the past year have clearly shown us that there is an urgent need to take concrete steps and measures to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime in which the Agency's role as an independent and objective verification body is crucial.

Mr.President,

As one of the ratifying countries, Turkey strongly supports the Agency's initiatives and efforts to promote universal adherence to the Additional Protocol and hopes that this conference will constitute an opportune event for the furtherance and promotion of such efforts. In this context, we call on all states who have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement the Additional Protocol without further delay.

Mr.President,

Turkey is deeply concerned that the IAEA remains unable to verify the DPRK's nuclear programme and its compliance with the safeguards agreement pursuant to the NPT.

We support the Director General's efforts to enter into discussion with the DPRK on requirements and modalities for compliance with its NPT safeguards agreement. Turkey welcomes the recent holding of the six party talks in Beijing and strongly supports the diplomatic efforts undertaken amongst the six parties

aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the question of the DPRK's nuclear programme.

Mr. President,

Concerning the Implementation of the Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran, we acknowledge that Iran has shown increased co-operation in providing information to the Agency. However, as outlined in the recent Board resolution, there is still need for full, complete and unconditional co-operation for a prompt resolution of the outstanding issues.

We also expect that Iran will move rapidly towards the conclusion and bringing into force the Additional Protocol. Turkey regards this step as an important sign of Iran's commitment to non-proliferation.

Turkey will continue to support the Agency's efforts to provide credible assurances regarding the nature of Iran's nuclear activities and to encourage Iran to fully cooperate with the Agency for a prompt solution of this very sensitive issue.

Mr.President,

We would like to commend the Director General and the Agency in the implementation of the Safeguards Agreement and the United Nations Security Council resolutions related to Iraq since the last General Conference.

However we believe that there is still work to be done by the Agency for a full and complete verification of Iraq's nuclear programme. To this end, the Agency should remain ready to resume its verification activities while awaiting further guidance by the Security Council.

Mr.President,

Nuclear security and protection against nuclear terrorism is a high priority for Turkey. My country spares no effort to improve its nuclear security measures and to enhance its capacity and capability to prevent the dangers posed by nuclear and radiological terrorism. In this vein the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) of the Agency was invited to

Turkey and the visit took place last July. Due consideration will be given to the recommendations of this mission.

Mr. President,

Safety of nuclear and radioactive materials will remain a priority issue for the international community. There is no doubt that the credibility of nuclear technology will very much depend on the strength of the safety measures.

The progress achieved in nuclear, radiation, waste and transport safety pursuant to Board Decisions and General Conference Resolutions over the last few years is a much welcomed development. We are also very pleased with the progress achieved in revising the safety standards.

Turkey endorses the wide implementation of the revised Action Plans for the safety and security of radioactive sources and occupational radiation protection.

The recent adoption of the revised code of conduct on the safety and security of the radioactive sources at the Board is also a very positive step. Turkey reaffirms its determination to uphold the

principals of safe and secure management of radioactive sources, as stated in this Code of Conduct.

We believe that, once implemented, the internationally accepted codes and standards, will make significant contribution to the enhancement of safety and security culture worldwide and will provide a good basis for co-operation in this field among the member states.

Mr.President,

Turkey firmly believes that one important priority area is the safe transport of nuclear and radioactive materials. We welcome the progress achieved in the field of transport safety as envisaged in the Resolution GC (46)/RES/9B.

As stated in the Director General's latest report, a TranSAS mission to Turkey took place in March 2003. Future work on transport safety in Turkey, including the possible modifications on national legislative and institutional structure will definitely benefit from the recommendations of this mission.

We are of the opinion that TranSAS is the best mechanism to assess the degree of implementation of the internationally accepted standards by the individual member states. Furthermore, the publication of the TranSAS reports will have a positive impact on the international efforts to establish overall safety culture on transport safety.

We believe that the organization of the International Conference on Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material in July 2003 constituted an important event in examining all aspects of the safe transport of radioactive material and served as a platform to further develop ideas and recommendations for future work.

In this regard, Turkey is willing to engage in a constructive dialogue to prepare an action plan based on the findings and the recommendations of the Conference and will support the Agency's efforts to this end.

Mr President,

Turkey supported the recent agreement regarding the budget at the Board with the belief that the agreed budget will respond to

the realization of the priorities of the Agency in a balanced manner. With this increase, we do hope that all core programme activities of the Agency can eventually be incorporated into the regular budget.

Furthermore, we are convinced that the Secretariat will remain committed to achieving efficiency and effectiveness in all areas, especially in the safeguards, and keeping its operations under continuing review.

Mr.President,

Turkey regards the Technical Co-operation activities of the Agency as an indispensable element of the efforts for sustainable development process and commend the work of the Agency to this end.

It is with these considerations I would like to express once again the satisfaction of the Turkish Authorities in the achievements of national and regional projects in the year 2002. However, we believe that there is still work to be done on both sides to increase the implementation rates of the projects.

Turkey would like to reiterate its support to the introduction of central criterion approach. We further believe that the programme planning process is one of the crucial parts of the Technical Co-operation Programme. Therefore the elements of the new TC strategy must be well perceived and implemented both by the member states and the Agency.

Thank you for your attention.