

MEXICO

**Adress by Viceminister of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights  
Patricia Olamendi to the Plenary of the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session  
of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference**

H.E. Mr. Jozsef Ronaki, Chairman of the 48<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Dr. Mohamed El Baradei, Director General of the IAEA

Distinguished delegates,

Mr. Chairman,

The Mexican Delegation warmly congratulates you for your election as chairman of this General Conference. We are certain that your abilities and experience will contribute to the successful outcome of this session. Please extend our congratulations to the other Members of the Desk. You can be certain of my Delegation's support.

The Mexican Government would like to acknowledge once again the vast diplomatic experience and professionalism which distinguish Dr. Mohamed El Baradei's work, as well as the one carried out by the Secretariat's personnel.

The 2003 Activities Report *offers* a clear view of the numerous challenges that the IAEA has faced. The work carried out confirms its fundamental contribution in favor of peace and prosperity worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament, non-proliferation and the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons have been and will continue to be at the center of the Mexican foreign policy. We have underlined that, as long as nuclear weapons exist on the face of the Earth, the risk of its use will persist.

The present international scenario is extremely worrying and demands joint and effective answers. Besides the problems derived from nuclear weapon's existence, we face new threats which place at risk the life and security of individuals. The breach of the provisions contained in the Agreements of Safeguards and the Treaty on non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in various countries, the emergency of an illicit technology and sensitive nuclear equipment market, along with the possible use of these weapons, technologies and materials by terrorist organizations, place us in a new scenario.

We cannot undermine the peril derived from the access of non-State agents, frequently linked to organized crime, to materials and technologies for developing nuclear weapons.

On the other hand, it is necessary to acknowledge that us States have not achieved the objectives contained in the international agreements on non-proliferation, particularly within the framework of the NPT. The risk of proliferation would diminish considerably if the total elimination of nuclear weapons was achieved, in a clear, verifiable and irreversible manner. That which does not exist, does not proliferate.

Certainly, the Review Conference of the NPT, which will be held shortly, constitutes an invaluable opportunity to address once again and forever the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We call upon those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, to join the international community in its efforts, and all of us State parties, to fully comply with the obligations in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

The multiple efforts that the IAEA has carried out to structure and implement a safeguard system, which enables the effective compliance of the non-proliferation nuclear regime, will never suffice without the political will of the States to make it possible.

My country, the same as other States, has made its utmost effort on non-proliferation, fully complying with the safeguard system carried out by the IAEA.

Mexico faces difficulties in its economy, as well as in the areas of education, health and living standards. Nevertheless, aiming to contribute to the strengthening of the safeguards and non-proliferation regimes, last March 29, we signed the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement of the IAEA and are on our way to ratify and implement it.

For countries like Mexico, these additional obligations will represent the use of important human and financial resources which we are willing to contribute and, along with other developing countries, apply our scarce resources for the strengthening of the control measures for non-proliferation. This attitude differs from that of other States which, having the necessary resources, decide not to comply, annulling in practice the efforts to eliminate the nuclear threat.

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All countries, possessing or not nuclear weapons, those having technology, equipment and nuclear materials, as well as those receiving it, should fully comply with their obligations. Moreover, it is necessary to guarantee the technological transfer for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, for the joint combat of the threat which represents today the access to this weapons by terrorist or organized crime groups.

Mr. Chairman,

The use of nuclear energy and the different nuclear applications contribute to solve the diverse problems linked with energy, health, agriculture, food, as well as environment protection issues. Its solution constitutes a priority for the international community, particularly, for the developing countries.

Therefore, Mexico grants special significance to the activities carried out by the IAEA related to the application of nuclear techniques. We are certain that these can contribute considerably to achieving the aims established in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in the Millennium Declaration.

We should continue promoting information campaigns on the benefits of nuclear applications, as those that have been carried out for cancer treatment by radiation and the search of sustainable hydric resources. The fact that the media and society have increased their awareness on the Agency's activities on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should be fully profited, in order to broadly spread the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

My Delegation wishes to especially recognize the activities carried out by the Agency in the fight against insect plagues and encourages it to continue supporting the development of this and other complementary techniques.

Mexico decisively supports the Technical Cooperation Program. This is the best instrument for developing countries to be able to benefit from the application of nuclear techniques, for improving the living conditions of millions of individuals. Thus, considerable efforts are required to financially and technically strengthen it, comparable to those actually carried out in verification activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico is convinced of the importance of having an Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. We are willing to continue all necessary efforts to achieve consensus of all contracting parties.

We reiterate our support to the activities of the Agency, aimed at promoting the universal application of the international agreements related to the physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, as well as radioactive sources, as part of the preventive measures against nuclear terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude my intervention reaffirming Mexico's commitment with the Agency and with the provisions of the NPT. For my country, as well as for many developing countries, it is of utmost importance to maintain and extend the benefits derived of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and its different applications.

On this regard, Mr. Chairman, the international community should achieve equilibrium between security and the obligation of facilitating, in benefit of our societies, the broadest exchange of equipment, material, scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in compliance with Article IV of the Treaty.

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Today, the international context obliges us to the compliance of the NPT provisions and the new commitments that may well surpass those provisions. We need to build confidence, relying on true, comprehensive commitments, which allow us to efficiently face the threats we have suffered for the past five decades, as well as those that have emerged in recent years.

Security, peace, development and better living standards are all concepts which by themselves have no meaning for our peoples. Together they make a difference.

Thank you.

Vienna, Austria, September 20, 2004