

**STATEMENT
OF THE HEAD OF DELEGATION
FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF BELARUS PROFESSOR VIKTAR GAISENAK
AT THE 49-TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY GENERAL CONFERENCE
27 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Distinguished Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you and your Deputies on your election as high officials of the 49-th session of IAEA General Conference.

I would also like to congratulate Doctor Mohamed ElBaradei on the approval of his appointment to the post of IAEA Director General. We reaffirm once again that the Republic of Belarus appreciates his professionalism and experience, as well as his efficient leadership of the Agency.

The Belarusian delegation welcomes the representatives of Belize as a new Member State of the Agency. We consider, that steady increase of IAEA membership confirms the image of the Agency as the key intergovernmental organization in nuclear energy area.

Mr. President,

The year passed has proved out that the situation with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapon is complicated. One of the key provisions of this Treaty is the balance between obligations and rights of non-nuclear State Parties. Those States undertook a commitment to refuse on voluntary basis from raising any nuclear military potentials. The Treaty at the same time reaffirms unambiguously the unalienable right of such State Parties to researches in, production and use of the atomic energy in peaceful purposes. The Agency's role in keeping this balance can be hardly overestimated.

Belarus expresses its support to the Agency's impartial position and highly professional activities in dealing with the Iranian problem, which have allowed to settle unclear technical issues. We note as well the effort of the Iranian side to clarify them. We urge Iran to co-operate with the Agency in the future in spirit of maximal transparency with a view to facilitate elimination of any misunderstanding in such a sensitive issue. We consider it

is necessary to stress that the Iranian problem needs to be solved within the frames of the international law but not on the ground of the politically motivated assessments.

The Belarusian delegation welcomes the DPRK's government declaration relating to its intention to restart participation in the NPT. We do hope, that a constructive interaction of all participants of six party talks will accelerate the search for the compromise decisions and become a prerequisite for enhancing security and stability in Asian Pacific Region.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Belarus is adherent to the strengthening of the safeguard regime. My country fulfills inviolately its international obligations under the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Safeguard Agreement. Today I am informing the Conference of the decision made by the Republic of Belarus to sign the Protocol Additional to the Safeguards Agreement under NPT. Appropriate notification has been sent to the Secretariat of the Agency and we are hopeful that the text of the Additional Protocol for the Republic of Belarus will be adopted at the nearest session of the Board of Governors.

We also signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Belarus has participated in the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPNMM) since 1993. Our country took an active part in the development and adoption of the Amendment to the Convention. And we note with satisfaction success of the diplomatic conference, which took place in July this year. We believe that the entry into force of this Amendment endorsed at the conference will make a considerable contribution to the strengthening of the regime of physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear installations. The Republic of Belarus has proceeded to the implementation of the national procedures indispensable for the Amendment to enter into force.

Mr. President,

Effective control of safety and security of radioactive sources is one of the fundamental directions of IAEA activities. International conference in Bordeaux on safety and security of radioactive sources became a considerable step forward in this regard. The conference has demonstrated convincingly the importance of extending international co-operation on

prevention of illicit trafficking of sources and implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

Belarus co-operates successfully with the Agency in combating illicit trafficking and smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials. Given the fact that since 2004 the State border of the Republic of Belarus has become the EU's frontier our activities on providing full-scale radiation safety at the border now has become the Belarusian contribution to the efforts to secure EU Member States. In this regard we propose to hold under IAEA auspices regional scientific and practical conference *Prevention of Illicit Trafficking and Smuggling of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials at the Border of the Republic of Belarus with the EU* in 2006 in Belarus. We expect support of this initiative.

We acknowledge the Agency's assistance in dismantling high-powered gamma facility "Stavrída" and transporting it to the place of safe storage. These problems were solved within the framework of the Tripartite Initiative on Safety Management of Radioactive Sources. We are hopeful that co-operation under this project will be continued in relation to the other high-powered facilities with out-of-date irradiators, which are located in the research and training centres of the Republic of Belarus.

Belarus pays special attention to the training of specialists in different areas of nuclear activities. Serious scientific potential, raised owing to the purposeful policy to develop scientific infrastructure, facilitates execution of this task. A unique infrastructure and scientific grounds for training were created as a result of taken measures.

We note with satisfaction that the regional IAEA training courses for post-graduates on radiation protection and safety of radiation sources have been held in Belarus over recent years on an annual basis. I would like to reaffirm our willingness to continue and expand the co-operation with the Agency in this field.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus I would like to express our concern with regard to the plans to construct in the Republic of Lithuania in the close vicinity to the Belarus' Lithuania border a storage for spent nuclear fuel and radioactive wastes, emerging during the decommissioning of Ignalina NPP.

We expect Lithuanian side to approach constructively to the issues of siting and safety of this storage. We do hope that the Agency, given its generally acknowledged authority and role in the development of international radiation safety standards, as well as assistance to apply them, will help solve the problem which is very sensitive for the Belarusian people.

Mr. President,

Mitigation of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences is a top-priority direction in the co-operation between Belarus and the Agency. We appreciate the effectiveness of the Chernobyl related technical co-operation projects under implementation. These projects are oriented to the social and economic rehabilitation of the affected regions. We look to preserve such projects in the future cycles of the Technical Co-operation Programme.

I would also like to mention with pleasure the Agency's contribution to the work of Chernobyl Forum. IAEA Director General proposed the initiative to convene the Forum during his visit to Belarus in August 2001. In early September this year the Forum presented to the international community the approaches to the assessments of the accident consequences and recommendations on rehabilitation of the affected regions at its final Conference in Vienna. Forum's activity is of a considerable practical importance to harmonize policies on mitigation of Chernobyl accident consequences and sustainable development of the affected territories, as well as to expand international Chernobyl co-operation. The Forum is essential to step forward to analyze the whole complex of the long-term Chernobyl accident consequences.

In this regard it is necessary to highlight two aspects. Firstly, both a three-year work of the Forum and its final documents have demonstrated, that a range of issues, including those relating to the medical consequences of Chernobyl, remained pending and needed further in-depth consideration. Secondly, our country believes the set of recommendations to the governments of the affected countries is not the only criterion to determine the efficiency of the Forum. We should also take into account further joint efforts on their translation into reality. The final conference of Chernobyl Forum has convinced that further international co-operation in learning and mitigating consequences of the largest radiological catastrophe in the history of humankind is needed.

I wish to stress that it is necessary to make appropriate corrections to the texts of the Forum final report. First of all it concerns the recommendations to the governments of the affected states. Belarus has

presented relevant comments to IAEA Secretariat and expects them to be reflected in the final version of this document. We also believe it is necessary the goal of forming adequate perception of the Forum results both in the international public and the affected peoples can only be achieved through the additional information outreach activities.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to draw attention of the participants of the Conference to the International conference *Chernobyl: 20 years after. Strategy for Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions*, to be held 19-21 April 2006 in Minsk and invite IAEA Member States and the Secretariat of the Agency to take part in this event.

Mr. President,

I would like to inform you, that Belarus pledges to pay into the Technical Co-operation Fund full amount of its voluntary contribution in 2006. We also urge the Agency's Member States to take necessary steps to provide the Technical Co-operation Fund with the sufficient financial resources for the full-scale implementation of the projects scheduled in the Technical Co-operation Programme.

In conclusion, Mr. President, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus I would like to appreciate the work of the Agency in 2004 and adopt the Annual Report. We also support the programme and budget of the IAEA for 2006-2007.

Thank you, Mr. President.