

# **S T A T E M E N T**

**by State Secretary Mr. Joachim Wuermeling**  
**Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology**  
**Germany**

**on the occasion of the**

**51st GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**of the**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

**in Vienna**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I.

Mr. President,

On behalf of my government I congratulate you on your election to the important office of President of the fifty-first IAEA General Conference. I would like to assure you and the Secretariat of the full support of the German Delegation in the successful accomplishment of your important task.

At the outset I should like to associate myself with the statement of the European Union, which I fully endorse.

II.

Mr. President,

The year that has passed since the last General Conference has been an important one for the IAEA. Above all, it has been the year in which we celebrated the Agency's fiftieth anniversary. The numerous events that took place on this occasion reflected the great importance of the Agency's work and its high recognition. The IAEA and the Director

General have continued to play a prominent role in the international community.

I would like to highlight some significant developments and their impact on the work of the IAEA.

III.

Mr. President,

Against the background of growing energy needs and the intensively discussed perils of global warming, a number of countries have announced plans to add nuclear energy to their energy mix. Others have taken steps to expand or to prolong their existing nuclear energy programmes. The efforts to develop a new and safer generation of reactors are being actively pursued at international level. On the other hand some countries have decided to terminate the use of nuclear energy due to the risks of this technology.

It may yet be too early to predict the extent to which nuclear energy will be used in the future. What can be stated, however, is that any substantial increase in the worldwide use of nuclear energy will inevitably lead to an increased demand for the Agency's services. This applies especially to nuclear safety and security, which form the basic prerequisites for any use of nuclear energy. Furthermore, the handling of a multitude of other tasks, ranging from fuel supply to decommissioning and waste management, will become even more challenging than they already are today. The agenda of the IAEA Scientific Forum 2007 taking place today and tomorrow provides a

good overview of the relevant issues in this regard. We are confident that there will be a fruitful exchange of thoughts.

IV.

Mr. President,

It is already more than four years since it became known that Iran has been pursuing undeclared nuclear activities for many years. The IAEA immediately started to reconstruct the history and scope of the Iranian nuclear programme. The Agency has been able to verify that no declared nuclear material has been diverted. However, mainly due to a lack of cooperation from the Iranian side, it has not been able to provide assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear activities. This means that the IAEA is still not able to confirm the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme.

Against this background we welcome the agreement reached between the IAEA and Iran on modalities to resolve the outstanding questions. We appreciate that, due to improved Iranian cooperation in recent weeks, the first two of these questions have already been solved. But we should not forget that a long list of still unresolved questions remains. We regret that Iran has not been ready to work on these important questions in parallel. Thus, doubts about the true scope and nature of Iran's past nuclear programme will remain as well as concerns regarding its present and future programme.

Iran has, in addition, so far completely ignored the justified and

binding demands of the International Community to allow for confidence building by suspending critical activities which are relevant to the development of nuclear weapons, and to fully cooperate with the IAEA – including the ratification and implementation of the Additional Protocol. The UN Security Council made suspension mandatory, but Iran has continued and even expanded its activities in sensitive areas like uranium enrichment. This clearly is worrying and cannot be accepted.

We remain convinced that a solution to the problem must be found through negotiations. Together with our partners, we are determined to continue our dual track approach. We will further cooperate with others, be it in the UN Security Council, the IAEA, the European Union or the E3+3, to convince Iran that at the end of the day it will be far better off if it takes the concerns of the International Community seriously and follows a fully transparent course without any ambiguity in such sensitive areas as the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The nuclear crisis on the North Korean peninsula remains a further source of serious concern to us and the International Community. However, important first steps towards its solution have been taken: We welcome the shut-down of the reactor in Yongbyon and commend the important work of the Agency in its verification. Now, it is important for this process to continue and for North Korea to disclose its nuclear programme and to return to the international Non-proliferation regime. A success of the Six-party process would certainly send a strong signal on the effectiveness of the international Non-Proliferation regime, and the Agency's work in that respect seems to us of crucial importance.

## V.

The developments I have just referred to clearly underline the paramount importance of an effective verification regime. With a view to the Agency's role in this regard I would like to emphasize once again that Germany – like many other Member States – is of the opinion that Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements in connection with the Additional Protocol should be considered the relevant standard for verification. Since the Additional Protocol not only increases the IAEA's verification capabilities but also offers the possibility of efficiency gains by developing Integrated Safeguards, its universalisation should form the focal point of our common efforts to strengthen the safeguards regime. To this end we urge all states that have not yet signed or ratified the Additional Protocol to bring it into effect as soon as possible.

## VI.

In this context I would also like to refer to the current efforts to develop mechanisms for the assurance of supply of nuclear fuel. In the course of the last three years, a range of various proposals and initiatives have been brought forward, inter alia the "Six-Party Proposal" in which we participate, and our proposal to establish a multilateral enrichment facility under the auspices of the IAEA. The Agency's report presented to the Board of Governors in June has been particularly helpful by outlining a possible framework that consolidates elements of the

various proposals. Together with the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of the Netherlands we have last week submitted to the Director-General a joint statement which will be distributed as an INFCIRC document.

The discussions on this issue have shown, however, that there is still a lot of work to do. It has to be ensured that a future framework provides for a convincing balance between non-proliferation aspects and the legitimate rights of potential consumer states to pursue the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Furthermore, and this is of particular importance, undue distortions of the existing commercial market will have to be avoided. We are convinced that the IAEA will play a key role in bringing these issues forward by providing the necessary expertise and by serving as a mediator. Germany will continue to actively support this process. To this end, we will offer to the IAEA to host an international symposium on this issue in Berlin in the first half of next year.

VII.

Mr. President,

Nuclear Safety and Security remain priority tasks on the agenda for global cooperation. We fully support the Agency's ambitious plans in this field. During the German presidency the EU Council approved a Conclusion on Nuclear Safety and Safe Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive Waste. This Conclusion highlights the importance of strengthening international nuclear safety cooperation, referring

especially to the IAEA. During the German Presidency, the G8 has also reaffirmed that IAEA standards and recommendations form a good basis for the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security, as well as for national nuclear regulatory systems. The Agency's Safety Standards Programme is of special value in this context.

We also welcome the practice of IAEA missions giving self assessments an increasing importance. Germany is currently preparing for an OSART Mission in October and an IRRS Mission in mid-2008. IRRS missions will take place in all G8 countries, giving further importance to the IAEA's services.

Germany strongly supports all measures taken by the IAEA to strengthen the control and security of radioactive material and fuel and to prevent its malicious use by terrorists. Therefore we welcome the entry into force of the "International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism" as an important step towards coordinated international action against this worldwide threat. My country will ratify this convention by the end of 2007. The efforts of the IAEA to draft recommendations on the security of radioactive sources are another important contribution to the prevention of malicious use of radioactive material. We will be glad to participate in the further development and improvement of measures in this field.

VIII.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate that Germany attaches great importance to the valuable assistance which the Agency's TC Programme provides in particular with regard to health, water

management, agriculture and environment protection. The results achieved in the cooperation with member states to improve living conditions as well as scientific and commercial potential are of great significance. My country remains determined to support these endeavours as much as possible.

IX.

Mr. President,

Summing up my brief overview of some current developments in the nuclear and non-proliferation field it seems obvious that the Agency will face new challenges. Among other things, this will necessitate considerable management efforts, and above all a comprehensive setting of priorities. There are unavoidable limits for additional funding and staff requirements. We appreciate, however, the Director General's intention to initiate a study to examine the consequences of these new challenges. We are prepared to contribute, if necessary, to its elaboration and look forward to discussing its outcome.

Germany attaches great importance to maintaining the Agency's ability to carry out its indispensable work as it has throughout the last fifty years. Ensuring this ability in an adequate and economically viable way requires the open-mindedness and flexibility of all parties concerned. I am confident that we will succeed in achieving this commonly shared goal.

Thank you, Mr. President.