

The 52nd IAEA General Conference
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STATEMENT BY CROATIA

**H. E. Mario Horvatić, Ambassador
Governor of the Republic of Croatia
in the IAEA Board of Governors**

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference. Wishing you every success in this task I want to assure you of the full support of Croatian delegation in conducting this conference to a successful outcome.

I am joining previous speakers in welcoming new members of the Agency – Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Lesotho and Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. President,

Croatia aligned itself with the statement of the EU, delivered on the first day of the conference by the distinguished representative of France.

Let me however point out some issues of particular interest for my country.

My country has just finished its two-year term as a member of the Board of Governors. Having actively cooperated with others in the policy-making body of the Agency, we had an opportunity to strengthen our view on the importance and mutual interdependency of all three pillars of the IAEA, as well as of the rightness of Agency's objectives.

Safety and Security; Science and Technology; Safeguards and Verification are the three pillars which are firmly linked among themselves as well as the objectives of the Agency are, i.e. the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

We live today in the world in which the threat of nuclear terrorism and other criminal acts involving nuclear materials remain real. From the very beginning Croatia has recognized the importance and actively participated in adopting *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism*, the amended *Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*, the *Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources* as well as *Security Council Resolution 1540*.

Besides accessing the current international legal framework as well as re-evaluation and improvement of national law in the nuclear security field, my country has established a strategy and relevant institutional capacities against illicit trafficking. The main aim of this strategy remains to prevent and suppress terrorists and non-state actors acquiring nuclear weapons.

It is necessary to have strong international cooperation, especially regional one, in order to achieve these security goals. Croatia contributes to this both by participating in numerous non-proliferation initiatives, regional seminars and training courses, and by fostering export control and border control management.

However, security is always interdependent with development, and not only in the Agency's matters. The IAEA's role as a focal point for peaceful nuclear cooperation, in which it serves as a development partner, is undoubtedly not less important.

Mr. President,

One of the most important aspects of successful cooperation between Croatia and the Agency is within the framework of the Technical Co-operation Programme, which operates intensively and successfully.

Technical Assistance is of the utmost importance for developing countries. Croatia strongly supports and appreciates activities in this field. In the past two years my country has recognized the role and the significance of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). But programmes in other fields of nuclear applications: food and agriculture, industry, environment, hydrology, biological and physical research should not be omitted, because they are all important for direct contribution to human well-being.

It is our belief that with further strengthening of the technical assistance of the IAEA, the safeguards regime could be better implemented, and some of the sensitive verification issues we could face in the future avoided.

Mentioning the third pillar of the Agency, I would reiterate Croatia's position that Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current IAEA verification standard.

After implementing both, and being listed as one of the countries without indication of diversion of declared nuclear material and without indication of undeclared nuclear material and activities, my delegation is pleased to inform the General Conference that Croatia this year concluded the exchange of letters with the Agency regarding the Small Quantity Protocol (SQP), hoping that this instrument will strengthen the safeguards system as a whole.

Strengthened and universal safeguards always brings us to think about the Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and an important element for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

NPT is the sole multilateral legal instrument intended to bring about a nuclear weapons free world. So it must not be allowed to be weakened. Croatia hopes that upcoming 2010 NPT Review Conference will not fail to bring a positive outcome.

All this recall the necessity of cooperative approach and mutual trust, which are encompassed within the Agency's role as the custodian of the NPT.

Mr. President,

To conclude, let me take brief look into the future. This year's main side event of the General Conference is the scientific forum "Future Role of the IAEA". Last week at the Board of Governors meeting we have been discussing a Report of the Commission of the Eminent Persons entitled *Reinforcing the Global Nuclear Order for Peace and Prosperity: The Role of the IAEA to 2020 and beyond*, popularly called study 2020.

Both events indicate the Agency is at the crossroads. Only together, in good multilateral environment, having in mind statutory obligations and objectives and their firm correlations, we can succeed in finding the right path for this noble organization.

Thank you.