

Statement by

**Ms. Dana DRABOVA**

President of the

State Office for Nuclear Safety

at the

Fifty - Second General Conference of the

International Atomic Energy Agency

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Mr. President,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your appointment as the president of the 52<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I am convinced that your diplomatic skills and experience, together with the cooperation of the distinguished delegates, will contribute to the successful outcome of this Conference. I can assure you of the full support of my delegation.

At the same time, let me welcome here Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Lesotho and Independent State of Papua New Guinea as new Member States of the IAEA.

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union. In my speech I will therefore limit myself to my country's specific areas of interest only.

The Czech Republic appreciates very much timely release of the **20/20 report** which we consider as one of the important documents indicating our future direction. We share the view that we all must - in cooperation with the Agency - **strengthen the international non-proliferation regime** by:

- Upholding preventive measures to lower the risks of nuclear accidents and nuclear terrorism;
- Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons by the use of the export control legislation based on principles of the Zangger Committee, and by implanting Multilateral Nuclear Assurances principles in practise;
- Using the Agency's verification skills for the future developments in the area of nuclear disarmament, for example for the verification of the FMCT.

Being one of the states with integrated safeguards and credible assurances about exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme confirmed by the Agency, we understand the necessity of increase in the Agency verification budget. We strongly believe that the obligation to support such an increase - at least for the NPT States Parties – stemming in the preambular paragraphs of the NPT. We do think that the time has come for the **updating of the Annex II to the Additional Protocol**. Its updates should reflect in timely manner the technical progress in the nuclear civil trade. Unfortunately, the situation is not satisfactory as the current list dates back to the nineties. Therefore, it could not give the Agency necessary means to maintain its verification tools updated and it means less security for all of us.

We also understand that strengthening of the nuclear security on the global level is not possible without an **adequate knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices**. It is

desirable that it goes hand in hand with establishment of the Agency's programme for acquiring the best experts in the area of nuclear sciences in general.

**My country is very serious about the supporting non-proliferation regime:** We regularly contribute to the Nuclear Security Fund and we have been actively involved in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. In its framework, **the first repatriation of spent HEU fuel was carried out from our research reactors in December 2007.**

Mr. President,

in this connection, I have a great pleasure to inform you that the Government of the Czech Republic has recently decided to support the **safe repatriation of spent fuel from the Vinca RA Research Reactor in Serbia to Russian Federation.** Being aware of the importance of this activity, we are going to make a contribution of total amount of approximately **1 million of USD** which will be divided into the next three years (2008-2010).

Recognizing the need for **enhancing Agency's analytical capabilities** and in reaction to urgent call for modernization of the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory in Seibersdorf, the **Czech Republic has recently officially offered the Agency its own premises and capacities** for performing analyses of safeguards samples in future. In our view use of or investment in adequate capacities of countries in the vicinity of the Agency's Headquarters could be one of the possible cost effective solutions for the IAEA. Nuclear Research Institute at Řež near Prague, member of the IAEA Network of Analytical Laboratories, has launched a large structural project in cooperation with the European Union a part of which is upgrading its Central Analytical Laboratory (CAL). It aims at extending the scope of services provided also to the area of environmental samples analysis, which is essential for the fulfilling Agency's obligations in the area of implementation of safeguards and the control over the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In cooperation with the Agency, the certified CAL could become one of its laboratories ensuring independent and timely analysis of safeguards samples. My country has already initiated discussion with the Secretariat in this regard and looks forward to further dialogue.

Mr. President,

**Technical Cooperation Programme** remains and will also represent in the mid term future a **key component for further development** of participating Member States. Especially in Europe, it is more and more considered as a unique platform for exchange of information, experience and know-how on regional level rather than a procurement instrument/tool for responding to individual national needs only. Therefore, the Czech Republic has been focusing on the regional projects and **would like to invite also other countries** from Europe which could benefit from knowledge sharing, **to get actively involved in the TC Programme.** We very much welcome the involvement of and synergy with other international organizations established so far, from our perspective namely the European Commission, which should be however further strengthened.

In line with the changing approach to the TC Programme my country also continues to offer **voluntary contributions to support various activities in other Member States**. While identifying possible projects, we cooperate closely both with the Secretariat and potential target countries in order to address their needs in the most effective way. Providing assistance already on a long-term basis, we still prefer earmarked contributions that enable us to ensure consistency and continuity of activities being carried out from our donations as well as help us directly and independently monitor the use of the financial resources. The Czech Republic systematically contributes to **the enhancement of nuclear safety of nuclear power plants in Armenia and Ukraine** and supports the strengthening of radiation protection in medicine and radioactive waste management in priority countries, preferably from our region.

Changing situation in Europe region may allow thinking **about the reallocation of a portion of the TC funds between the regions in the near future**. In this context, we would very much appreciate timely involvement of the Members States in all crucial discussions relating to the financial/budgetary and strategy matters which will contribute to greater transparency of the decision making process as well as to more effective planning of the TC Programme.

Besides the already mentioned TC Programme we also support **the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy**, PACT. Under the PACT we initiated comprehensive assistance to Moldova, the objective of which is to improve regulatory body infrastructure and performance with possible extension to upgrading radiotherapy services.

In conclusion, I would like to reassure the Secretariat of our continuous full support and cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. President.