

S T A T E M E N T

by Ambassador Ruediger LUEDEKING

**Resident Representative of
the Federal Republic of Germany**

on the occasion of the

52nd GENERAL CONFERENCE

of the

International Atomic Energy Agency

in Vienna

29 September - 4 October 2008

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

30.9.08, 9.50 h

I.

Mr. President,

on behalf of my government, I congratulate you on your election to the important office of President of the fifty-second 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 would like to associate myself with the statement of the European Union, which I fully endorse.

II.

Mr. President,

This year the Director General has launched important initiatives regarding the future of the Agency. He first presented the "Vision 20/20", then he convened the "Commission of Eminent Persons". The two reports have presented us with a number of very valuable insights and suggestions. We stand ready to enter into a focussed and constructive discussion on these.

One conclusion can already be drawn now: The Agency will also in the future play a key - and probably expanding - role. We share the view that a substantive increase in the use of nuclear energy can be expected during the coming decades. This increase is bound to have repercussions on the Agency. And we believe that the IAEA's current mandate is sufficiently broad and flexible to cover these future tasks. In deciding on the Agency's future role, we will also have to keep financial consequences in mind.

III.

Mr. President,

Turning to the recent decisions regarding India, we trust that the India-IAEA Safeguards Agreement is a step in bringing India closer to the non-proliferation regime. Our consent to the IAEA and NSG decisions is premised on the expectation that India, as it has announced, will now allow IAEA safeguards to be applied to its civil nuclear facilities and that these safeguards will be implemented in perpetuity. We also expect that India will, in accordance with its respective declarations, refrain from any proliferation of sensitive technologies and from nuclear weapons tests. We call on India to accede to the CTBT, to stop the production of fissile material for weapons purposes and unequivocally commit to nuclear disarmament.

IV.

Mr. President,

It is already more than five years since it became clear that Iran has been pursuing undeclared nuclear activities. In the meantime, the IAEA has succeeded in clarifying a number of open questions with respect to Iran's nuclear programme. However, there is still a number of questions relating to a possible military dimension. These questions need to be clarified. And as Iran has not implemented the additional protocol, the Agency cannot provide assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear activities. The IAEA is therefore still not able to confirm the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme.

Against this background, we deeply deplore that Iran has not taken the opportunity to build confidence by suspending sensitive nuclear activities such as enrichment or heavy water projects. The United Nations Security Council made the suspension of these activities mandatory. However, Iran has continued and even expanded them, thereby further increasing the lack of trust regarding its intentions.

In June, the E3+3 presented Iran with new proposals aimed at opening the way to starting negotiations. As yet we have not received a clear answer to them. However, we remain convinced that a solution to the problem must be achieved through negotiations. We are determined to continue our dual track approach, together with our partners and other interested countries. Iran should take the concerns of the International Community seriously and change course.

The International Community reiterated its concerns in United Nations Security Council resolution 1835 which was adopted last Saturday. This

resolution underlines the unwavering resolve and unity of the International Community in the face of Iranian non-compliance and defiance. It calls on Iran to fulfill its international obligations without exception or delay.

The nuclear crisis on the North Korean peninsula remains a further source of serious concern to the International Community. We very much welcome the shut down of nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and commend the important work of the Agency in its verification. However, we deeply deplore that the denuclearisation process has recently been stopped by ousting IAEA inspectors from nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and announcing to reintroduce nuclear material. This is deeply worrying. We urgently call on the DPRK to return to the Six Party process. It is important that North Korea fully complies with its obligations and places all its nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards. We believe that the Agency's work in this respect is of crucial importance.

We carefully noted the Director General's remarks in his opening statement to the Board of Governors last week regarding the alleged nuclear reactor in Al Kibar in Syria. The lack of cooperation by Syrian authorities is a cause of concern. We urgently call on Syria to fully cooperate with the IAEA to clarify this issue.

V.

Mr. President,

The above-mentioned developments again underline the need for an effective and efficient safeguards regime. Therefore, I would once again like to emphasize that we are convinced that Comprehensive

Safeguards Agreements in connection with the Additional Protocol should be considered as the relevant standard for verification.

VI.

Mr. President,

The prospect of rising demand for nuclear fuel, the high importance of supply security in the nuclear sector and the imminent proliferation risk of nuclear fuel cycle technologies has led to a growing debate on multilateral approaches. We share the goal expressed by the Director General in his statement to the Board of Governors of the IAEA in November 2007 that any such mechanism should be non-discriminatory and available to all States that are in compliance with their safeguards obligations.

Germany welcomes the various proposals made on this issue. Different solutions will have to be developed for different needs. At a conference on nuclear fuel supply in April 2008, German Foreign Minister Steinmeier and the IAEA Director General highlighted the challenges and opportunities we face in achieving a secure supply of nuclear fuel in a world of growing demand. Germany has further developed its own proposal for a Multilateral Enrichment Sanctuary Project (MESP). We are ready to continue developing this proposal in consultation with interested states and the IAEA.

VII.

Mr. President,

The amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material of 2005 represent a key contribution to the global prevention of criminal acts involving nuclear materials. In Germany, the legal provisions required for the ratification of the amended Convention were enacted in June 2008.

VIII.

Mr. President,

Once again I would like to underline that Germany greatly appreciates the valuable assistance that the Agency's TC Programme provides to Member States. This cooperation with countries concerned and other international organizations leads to noticeable improvements in important areas like health, water management, agriculture and environmental protection. We commit to continue our support for the Agency's efforts in this regard.

IX.

Mr. President,

It is obvious that the beginning new phase of nuclear energy requires an intensive international collaboration. The IAEA plays a central role in this regard. Maintaining its ability to do so remains an issue of highest priority for my country. We look forward to continuing our constructive cooperation with the Agency and with all Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.