

FINAL

**GREECE / STATEMENT by Mr. Panayotis Zografos Ambassador/
Permanent Representative of Greece
Before the 52nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
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Vienna, October 1, 2008

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Greek Delegation I would like to convey to You our sincere congratulations upon Your election to the Presidency of the 52nd General Conference of the IAEA and to assure You of our full support for every success in your endeavours.

I use this opportunity to express my Government's sincere appreciation to the Director General Dr. El Baradei and his dedicated staff, for the efforts made to help the Member States and serve the most rapidly growing programme of the Agency in all its aspects.

Greece aligns herself with the statement delivered by the French Presidency on behalf of the European Union. However, I wish to make some additional remarks which are of specific importance to my country.

Nuclear Safety and Security

Greece fully supports the Agency's efforts to promote both Nuclear Safety and Security. The individual Member States bear the ultimate responsibility for the

safe operation of their nuclear facilities. However, the overwhelming weight of independent professional opinion of the IAEA sets the norms of a nuclear safety culture worldwide. My country stands firm in its obligations and commitments contained in all Conventions, to which Greece has adhered. Since last year, Greece participated in the Review Meeting of CNS, in full compliance with its terms. She also intends to actively participate in the Review Meeting of the Joint Convention and submit its national report next week.

Greek Atomic Energy Commission experts actively participate in IAEA activities. Greece follows the Code of Conduct on Security and Safety of Radioactive Sources and has implemented it together with the European Directive. Greece continues to take advantage of using the equipment installed at the borders and shares with other countries the experience gained by offering training and organizing seminars in relevant issues.

Greece is in the process of extending its co-operation with IAEA in nuclear security by providing technical support services to the region with regard to sustainability and maintenance of border radiation detection equipment.

Mr. President,

Greece supports every effort made for the establishment of an effective security regime worldwide, and has provided, within its limits, both financial and in kind contributions. We are grateful to the Director General for his report on the measures taken against nuclear terrorism and the Agency's activities, in particular on the nuclear security plan presented for the period 2006-2009. Greece looks forward to the Agency's continuing efforts in the context of the forthcoming Nuclear Security Plan for 2010-2013.

The Greek Atomic Energy Commission is recognised as an IAEA's regional training centre in radiation protection and nuclear security by hosting the upgraded Post Graduate Course (PGEC). Besides, since last year, nearly 50 participants from 23 countries attended seminars devoted to the assessment of occupational exposure due to radio nuclides intake and to remote monitoring and sustainability of border radiation detection equipment.

Greece is one of the first members of I.A.E.A. illicit trafficking information system established in 1995, which now counts 100 members. She participates in the activities of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and is a member of the Global Initiative to Compact Nuclear Terrorism. She has also signed the amendment to the Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), and has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Nuclear Proliferation and Safeguards – Multilateral Control of the fuel cycle

Mr. President,

The continuing success of international safeguards depends to a far greater extent on political support at the international and regional level and, in particular, the political and technical cooperation of the inspected states. Greece supports every effort to strengthen the safeguards system, ever and ever again as technology develops, so the system can be made as credible as possible.

The most effective measure and answer to threats to international security and nuclear proliferation is the broader implementation of the Additional Protocol which enhances the safeguards system and improves its efficiency.

Concerning Iran's nuclear program, I would like to express our appreciation for the relentless efforts of the Director General of the Agency aiming

at achieving full cooperation and transparency. We reaffirm our continuous support in favour of a negotiated and long-term solution of the nuclear issue of Iran.

We note however, with grave concern, the Agency's last report that no substantive progress on the alleged studies and other associated key remaining issues has been made.

We consider Iran's compliance with UNSC resolutions and Board requirements essential and urge its authorities to cooperate fully with the IAEA, in particular to make a full disclosure of any nuclear weapons-related work and to facilitate IAEA verification.

We hope that the Iranian authorities will demonstrate good faith, full transparency and good cooperation, paving the way for suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and for adoption of the Additional Protocol.

In the last Board of Governors, we all welcomed Libya's decision to adopt the policy of providing every access to safeguards inspectors beyond even that required under the safeguards agreement and the Additional Protocol. We would wish Libya's example to be followed by other member states.

Mr. President,

From the beginning of nuclear trade negotiations, the nuclear community has been faced with encountered obstacles that did not exist in any other trading activity. Any negotiation of this kind would have been meaningless without reference to the credibility and assurance of supplies. Early proposals for assurance of supply and the role of the IAEA have been lost in the arena of lengthy discussions and the lack of a political will. The obvious need for a reconsideration of this issue and the relentless efforts of the Director General have

brought closer the idea of the establishment of an assurance of supply mechanism to strengthen the non-proliferation and meet the growing demands. The centre of such a mechanism as a short time-span solution is a fuel bank of last resort under the auspices of the IAEA, operating in a non-political and non discriminatory way with a set of non proliferation and other criteria. Such a bank would not be used in a non-compliance case, nor to solve commercial issues. My country fully supports this plan and, as a member of the EU, is ready to contribute for its early implementation. In our view, the clock is ticking.

Technical Co-operation

Mr. President,

Greece contributes approximately \$500.000 per year for the Technical Cooperation Fund, which constitutes 100% of its voluntary obligations.

Greece recognizes the fact that now there are other countries with priority needs to benefit from the Agency's T.C. programme. In this respect, no T.C. funded national programmes have been claimed for the next cycle. Contrary, our participation in regional programmes is constantly increasing, since their impact is considered very valuable for the collaboration and the harmonisation in the area.

Greece returns back to IAEA its investment, and is hosting free of charge, more and more scientists from different regions of the world.

Thanks to the investment made throughout all these years, the GAEC has now grown as a unique authority within the government's organisations. She is representing Greece in 26 Committees of the European Union, 12 Committees of OECD/NEA and 21 Committees of the IAEA. She also participates in 11 regional programmes, organises training seminars for various institutions and prepares responses to questions raised at the Parliament related to nuclear matters.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we reiterate our view that T.C. programmes should be designed well in advance and implemented in the context of a network of partnerships with the recipient states. An important element in the planning and execution of the T.C. programmes is the “One House” approach, which the Director General has since a while ago proclaimed.

Mr. President,

Greece is contributing in full its share in the regular budget of the Agency. In full recognition of the Agency’s need for increasing efficiency and effectiveness in programme delivery (AIPS), my country decided to listen to the appeal made by the Director General and made available to the Agency part of its 2006 surplus.

Turning to a few more points, I would also wish to highlight the role of the Agency in assisting member States in making use of the benefits of the advanced nuclear technology for the well being of their people. Use of isotopes in the fields of agriculture, industry and health are very important. Nowhere is the need greater than in the developing world, where millions of people suffering from cancer. The Agency’s Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) is a typical example of a plan purely aiming to assist the prevention and treatment of this disease whenever needed.

I wouldn’t finish my statement without referring to the excellent report of the panel of eminent persons, under the leadership of Prof. Zedillo, former Mexican President, acting upon the proposal of the Director General to make an assessment of the challenges the IAEA will have to face up to the year 2020 and beyond. The Committee’s report addresses many challenges and opportunities and sets out very useful recommendations. We sincerely congratulate all members of the Committee and the Secretariat for their vision as to the future role of our Organisation in the

difficult times ahead. Member states will embark on substantive discussions in the forthcoming months.

Mr. President,

May I conclude by assuring you that Greece will continue its engagement and enhance its support for this Organization, its objectives, programmes and activities.

Thank you