

Check against delivery

**Statement by Ambassador Alphons Hamer,
Resident Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the International Atomic Energy Agency**

Vienna, 1 October 2008

Mr President,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to the Chair of the 52nd IAEA General Conference. We pledge you our full support. I also wish to express the Netherlands' appreciation for Dr ElBaradei's leadership and for the dedication with which he and the Secretariat carry out their many complicated tasks.

We fully share the comments made by the French Presidency on behalf of the Member States of the EU last Monday, so I shall limit myself to some additional remarks of particular interest to the Netherlands.

Mr President,

These are challenging times for the non-proliferation regime. The system of treaties and agreements continues to form the heart of my government's policy on non-proliferation. There is a need to be continuously aware of new emerging security and proliferation risks. Within the existing international legal framework, the Netherlands is prepared to add new instruments to the existing ones, use new techniques and assist in the development of new instruments that can be used in specific instances to counter new proliferation risks. The international community can only deal with those risks if it works together through multilateral cooperation. We need both a 'legal' approach and a practical 'hands on' approach. The Proliferation Security Initiative, Resolution 1540, and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism are examples of new instruments, all of which are fully supported by the Netherlands. A customized approach, based on individual cases and developments *and* using a mix of both old and new instruments, is in our view necessary to contain the emerging risks of proliferation.

The IAEA's international safeguards system (CSA) is an essential part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Netherlands favours a further strengthening of this system and we advocate its universal adoption and

implementation. We consider that the CSA *and* the Additional Protocol together constitute the verification standard. We call upon all member states to conclude Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols. However, strengthening of safeguards is not enough. We have to also deal with non-compliance. In order to guarantee the integrity of the Non Proliferation Treaty and the IAEA's inspection regime, we need a strong policy against non-compliance.

Mr President,

The Nuclear Security Fund, the NSF, is pivotal to efforts aimed at preventing proliferation and improving nuclear security. As stated by the Director-General in his opening intervention, the NSF is for 90% dependent on voluntary contributions. Since nuclear security is indispensable to the world as a whole, and an integral part of IAEA's core activities, we believe that the NSF should be funded out of the Regular Budget. Pending a decision to this effect, we call upon *all* member states to contribute to the Fund generously and unconditionally. Experience has shown that conditionality can seriously hamper the implementation of programmes and projects. For several years now, the Netherlands has donated generously and without conditions, and we are ready to consider similar contributions in the future. We look forward to the discussions on the Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013.

Mr President,

The Netherlands supports the different mechanisms in the field of nuclear safety and has joined the various Conventions and Codes of Conduct in this respect. Learning from the collective knowledge and insight of experts from so many countries is an enriching experience and contributes to a broader political backing for nuclear safety.

Last week, an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission visited, at our request, four nuclear installations in the Netherlands. We look forward to the results. An Operational Safety Review Team (OSART), also at the request of the Netherlands, inspected the Borssele Nuclear Plant in 2005, and in June 2007 a follow-up mission concluded that all the recommendations and suggestions had been implemented.

Mr President,

The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities. We are happy to reiterate that we have already pledged our full share of the target to the Technical Cooperation Fund (the TCF) for 2009. We hope

that member states which have not yet done so, will pledge their share as soon as possible.

The Netherlands is optimistic about the Agency's advances in streamlining its Technical Cooperation Programme. We should like to commend the Agency on the projects it has implemented under TC, which will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This is all the more reason why we are pleased that a consensus has been reached on the target figures for the TCF for the coming years.

Mr President,

The Netherlands has been a strong supporter of the implementation of the Agency-wide Information System for Programme Support (AIPS) since the Agency first tabled the proposal a year ago. Through the full implementation of AIPS, the Agency will not only be able to meet the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by 2010, a deadline for all UN organisations, but AIPS will also result in significant efficiency gains for IAEA and cost savings for member states. The Netherlands is therefore happy to increase its pledge for the financing of the first plateau of AIPS to 145,000 euros. In order

to facilitate the implementation of the future plateaus, we are of the opinion that those future plateaus of AIPS should be financed out of the regular budget.

Mr. President,

My country has been at the forefront of the discussions on nuclear fuel assurances and was one of the 6 countries that jointly submitted the first proposal for a fuel assurance arrangement. This year, together with the United Kingdom and Germany, the Netherlands organised a seminar on the challenges and opportunities regarding the nuclear fuel cycle. We remain committed to continuing an open and constructive dialogue on this issue between all interested states, supplier *and* consumer states.

The Netherlands is grateful to the Director General for taking the initiative to reflect upon the long-term future of the Agency. We attach great importance to the discussion on the future of the Agency and believe this should be taken up by the member states within the relevant decision-making bodies. It is for the member states to decide what instruments, role and tasks they want the Agency to have in order to perform its statutory mandate. The Netherlands is also prepared to discuss the consequences which these choices might entail for the budget. If *we* decide that this Agency should be charged with extra tasks

without relinquishing any of its current responsibilities, it is only realistic to expect additional financial consequences.

Mr. President,

Let me finish by briefly touching upon some recent developments in our national energy arena. Over the next three years, our government will invest €7 billion to make our energy system more sustainable up to 2012. It will increase international cooperation in energy policy and will adapt the legislative framework so that energy markets and the investment climate will improve.

The Netherlands is the European hub for imports, processing and exports of oil and has the potential to play a similar role for natural gas, biomass and carbon dioxide.

Energy savings and energy sustainability will remain the cornerstones of our energy policy. In 2020, 20 % of the energy we generate should be sustainable and 2% on energy consumption should be saved annually. Our government is focusing on wind and biomass energy, and preparing for a large scale rollout of solar panels. Together with the private sector, our government will take steps to harness the North Sea's potential as a source for sustainable energy. The development of carbon dioxide capture and storage is strongly stimulated. For

nuclear energy, three scenarios are being developed which could form the basis for decision-making of a future government.

Mr President,

In conclusion allow me to emphasize that the Netherlands attaches the utmost importance to the Agency's role in strengthening disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, in guaranteeing the safety and security of nuclear energy and in advancing nuclear technology to the benefit of all. We hope that during this General Conference the dialogue will be constructive and negotiations with *all* parties involved will be open, transparent and without prejudice, so as to uphold and strengthen the true Vienna Spirit.

Thank you, Mr President