

## **53<sup>rd</sup> General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

### **Canadian Statement**

#### **Introduction**

Madam President, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I congratulate you on your election as President of the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Conference and assure you and the Secretariat of the full support of the Canadian delegation in making this conference a success.

We would also like to take this time to thank the Director General Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei on his many contributions as Director General as acknowledged by being awarded, jointly with the Agency, the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. Thank you, Dr. ElBaradei, for your work over the past twelve years. Canada also welcomes Yukiya Amano on his election as incoming Director General. We have full confidence in your leadership and look forward to working with you in the future.

The inclusion of Bahrain, Burundi, Cambodia, Congo, Lesotho, Oman and Rwanda to the IAEA brings our total membership in the Agency to one hundred and fifty-two; a significant milestone. Canada would like to take this opportunity to welcome these seven new countries to the General Conference.

For Canada, the IAEA continues to be an essential organization whose mandate remains as relevant today as it was when its Statute entered into force in 1957. Throughout

its history, Canada has supported as a major donor the IAEA's continuing mission to implement and verify international safeguards, advance nuclear safety and security, and promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Canada continues that tradition of support as a leader in nuclear technology.

The past decade has been a dramatic one which has yielded both positive outcomes and new challenges for the IAEA. Global interest in the use of nuclear power as a safe and secure energy supply has increased in the last decade, all the more so as we look for ways to lower greenhouse gas emissions. We have strengthened international cooperation towards preventing a serious nuclear accident. We have strengthened global control on unsecured nuclear material. We have shared and learned from each others' experiences in nuclear safety and security. We have strengthened the legal tools to not only verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material but also to provide assurances as to the absence of undeclared nuclear material. We have improved our ability to monitor activities in Member States that have chosen to take the important step of signing the Additional Protocol which, together with a CSA, Canada considers to be the current safeguards standard. And we are pleased to note that fifty-one nations have obtained a broad safeguards conclusion that all nuclear material remains in peaceful use, including Canada.

Truly, Madam President, we have much to be proud of, but we cannot rest on our laurels. As more of the world turns to nuclear power to address the challenges of climate change and rising energy demand, this could not be a more critical time for the IAEA and its Member States. For this reason, Canada remains focused on promoting the core mandates of the IAEA— safeguards and verification, nuclear safety and security, and the promotion of nuclear science and technology throughout the world. These are the activities for which the

IAEA is well-suited. We must ensure that the Agency does not stray from these core mandates or engage in tasks and issues better addressed in other fora.

### **Peaceful Use of Nuclear Power**

Canada has a large nuclear industry founded on 50 years of innovation. Because of that experience we understand the advantages and benefits that the peaceful use of nuclear energy has to offer. We believe that nuclear power has a vital role, both domestically and internationally, to play in the world today and in the foreseeable future. For this reason Canada will continue to be a leading example of the positive effects that nuclear power has to offer.

Canada will remain a global leader in promoting nuclear power as a low emissions solution and adapting it to the energy needs of the coming decades. The Government of Canada and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited are developing the Advanced CANDU Reactor, or ACR — an evolutionary technology based on the highly successful CANDU 6 design. The Advanced CANDU Reactor's safety enhancements and evolutionary design will make significant improvements in safety, economics, and non-proliferation. I am pleased to tell you that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has concluded that there are no fundamental barriers from a design viewpoint to licensing of the ACR-1000 in Canada.

Madam President, Canada remains a strong supporter of the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities and a major contributor to the Technical Cooperation Fund. We commend the Technical Cooperation Department for its efforts to better prioritize and to address more efficiently and effectively both the management and accountability

requirements of donors and the development priorities of recipient partners. We encourage these efforts to continue.

### **Safeguards and Verification**

Madam President, the development and application of the State-level approach to safeguards implementation and evaluation represents a fundamental change to the IAEA's safeguards system. Canada commends the Secretariat for its ongoing work in this regard. The State-level concept embodies the use of a more information-driven, risk-informed approach to safeguards – an approach which provides the basis for greater optimisation of safeguards resources while providing enhanced confidence in the Secretariat's assessment of a State's compliance with its peaceful nuclear undertakings. In Canada's case, the State-level approach is being applied in the context of integrated safeguards, based on the Agency's conclusion that all nuclear material within our country remains in peaceful applications. We reiterate the fact that, as indicated in the 2008 *Safeguards Implementation Report*, 50 other Member States join Canada in having attained this conclusion.

The utilization of a State-level approach to safeguards implementation and evaluation must be complemented by a similar approach with respect to how the Secretariat reports on these activities. Specifically, there should be a move away from general, summary information relevant to all States under safeguards, to more focused and specific information relevant to activities in each State. This type of reporting would provide, for example, greater transparency with respect to the use of the Agency's verification resources in a given State as well as to implementation issues that are encountered in that State. Although there are several advantages to such reporting, in our view, one of the primary benefits would be to provide

increased confidence in the annual findings and conclusions drawn by the Secretariat. One of the first steps in this direction is to review the format and content of the annual Safeguards Implementation Report. We note that the Secretariat has begun work in this area and we welcome this initiative.

As we have expressed in the past, Canada continues to emphasize the importance of cooperation and transparency between Member States and the Secretariat in the implementation and evaluation of safeguards. The determination of the inspection effort to be applied in a given State should be based in part on a consideration of these two elements, in addition to the demonstration of consistent compliance by that State with its safeguards obligations.

Madam President, Canada welcomes India's signing of the Additional Protocol approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in March 2009, as well as India's ratification and the entry into force of the *India Specific Safeguards Agreement*. These texts form the cornerstone of the Agreement India reached with the Nuclear Suppliers Group on September 6, 2008, and represent a step in the right direction to safeguarding an increased number of nuclear facilities.

Madam President, Iran's failure to provide *critical* information and full cooperation to the IAEA betrays Iranian claims that its nuclear program is peaceful in nature. The Director General has been reporting for six years that Iran has not lived up to the commitments to transparency and cooperation that all member states are held to, particularly in regard to unresolved nuclear activities with possible military dimensions. Canada urges Iran to end

this continued intransigence, cooperate fully and transparently with the IAEA, and make a positive contribution to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

North Korea's unsafeguarded nuclear activities and aggressive weapons program continue to represent a grave threat to international security, and are especially troubling for stability in Northeast Asia. Rather than taking actions that increase regional tensions, Canada calls on North Korea to seek a path that will lead to lasting peace on the Korean peninsula, increased regional stability, and major improvements in the lives of the North Korean people. Canada is deeply concerned that North Korea has decided to cast aside the Six-Party Talks, which remain the best means to achieve a permanent, peaceful resolution of the Korean Peninsula's long-standing security issues. Canada therefore strongly urges North Korea to return to the Six-Party talks and abide by its commitments to peaceful denuclearization through the resumption and completion of existing disablement activities. Canada furthermore calls upon North Korea to immediately return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to resume fulfilling its safeguards obligations and reinstate cooperation with the IAEA.

Canada remains deeply concerned about revelations that point to possible undeclared nuclear material, facilities and activities in Syria and also about possible nuclear cooperation between Syria and the DPRK. It is essential that Syria cooperate fully and transparently with the IAEA in order to restore confidence with respect to the nature of its nuclear program.

### **Safety and Security**

Madam President, nuclear safety and security are of critical importance to the work of the IAEA and to Canada. Over decades, Canada has built a sophisticated nuclear sector that

touches many aspects of Canadians' lives. Nuclear energy and related products heat our homes, fuel our businesses and help us overcome illnesses. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Canada's nuclear regulator, ensures that these activities are safe and secure by stringently monitoring and controlling the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect Canadians, their health and the environment. In this context, Canada actively participates in the development of IAEA safety and security standards, which are one of the cornerstones of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's regulatory approach. Madam President, we are all responsible for ensuring the safe and secure use of nuclear energy, and we must all fight complacency in this regard.

In this connection, and as part of our commitment to continuous improvement, Canada hosted an IAEA International Regulatory Review Service mission in June 2009. The review team has determined that Canada has a mature and well-established nuclear regulatory framework that ensures the safety and security of the Canadian nuclear industry while also protecting the health of Canadians and the environment. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is considering the review team's recommendations and is dedicated to their timely implementation. Canada is grateful to the IAEA and the review team for their efforts, and encourages other Member States to avail themselves of this useful service.

Madam President, the threat of nuclear terrorism and proliferation remains constant. We must be vigilant in our coordinated efforts to confront these threats. Canada has contributed \$12 million to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund as part of our continuing commitment to the G8-led *Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*. We strongly believe that activities supported by the Nuclear Security Fund are essential to strengthening nuclear security worldwide. Nuclear terrorism is a global

threat that demands a global response. We encourage all member-states to contribute to these efforts.

Canada welcomes the new *Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013*, and thanks the Office of Nuclear Security for its efforts in producing a strong document. Our latest contribution of \$4 million was announced in March 2009 by our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lawrence Cannon, at the time of the IAEA-hosted International Symposium on Nuclear Security. This contribution will support the activities described in the new *Nuclear Security Plan*. The fulfillment of the *Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013* through the support of Canada and other Member States will make a tangible contribution strengthening nuclear security worldwide and thus to enhancing the security of the entire international community

### **Closing Remarks**

In closing, I would like to reaffirm Canada's strong commitment to the IAEA, the current Director General, and to his successor. The IAEA's mission to implement and verify international safeguards, advance nuclear safety and security and promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy is of critical importance to people everywhere – in sustainable development, in providing clean energy, in medical treatment and in public health. Canada remains steadfastly in support of the Agency and these goals.