

Statement
of the **CZECH REPUBLIC**
delivered by Ms. Dana DRÁBOVÁ,
President, State Office for Nuclear Safety
to the
Fifty - Third General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, 16 September 2009

Madam President,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your appointment as the president of the Fifty-Third 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. Let me therefore assure you of the full support of my delegation.

At the same time, I would like to welcome here the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Rwanda as new Member States of the IAEA.

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

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

Madam President,

at the outset, however, I wish to convey my best wishes to the next Director General of the Agency, Ambassador Amano. I wish to assure him of our full support and of our firm dedication to the work of the Agency. I also wish to use this opportunity to thank Dr. ElBaradei for all he has accomplished at the head of the Agency during the last twelve years. When we look back, we see many a success, international recognition, growing esteem of the international community towards the Agency. Thank you, Sir.

Madam President,

my country continues to attach great importance to the strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime and enhancing nuclear security worldwide. In this regard, the universal adoption and implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, which constitute the current verification standard, remains essential. We accord high priority to technical updates of Annex II to the Additional Protocol, which should duly and timely reflect the technical progress in the nuclear civil trade. In this connection we would like to stress also the importance of the Zangger Committee in updating the clarification of requirements of Article III.2 of the NPT, related to the supply of nuclear material and equipment, which was published in the IAEA INFCIRC/209 series.

Using this opportunity, I would like to announce that, in line with EU accession conditions, my country has completed its internal procedures relating to the entry into force of the trilateral Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol according to the IAEA INFCIRC/193 and its Addendum 8 in the Czech Republic.

We recognize the need for maintaining and further strengthening of the Agency's capability to provide credible and timely analysis of safeguards samples. For that reason my country has already offered to the Agency its current and newly built capacities. In addition, my government is going to make also a voluntary contribution to support the upgrading of the Nuclear Material Laboratory within the modernization of the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL) in Seibersdorf.

Madam President,

since successful completion of the repatriation of spent High-Enriched Uranium (HEU) from my country within the Global Threat Reduction Initiative in 2007 and under the auspices of the IAEA, the Czech Republic has been sharing valuable experience gained during the implementation of this significant project with other countries undertaking similar initiative. At the same time, we continue to support safe repatriation of spent nuclear fuel from Serbian Research Reactor Vinča to the Russian Federation. In order to facilitate conclusion of the commercial Foreign Trade Contract for repatriation, which took place yesterday, we pledged to make available to the Agency also the last tranche of our approximately one million USD contribution by April 2010.

Madam President,

the Czech Republic has a long experience with operation of its six nuclear power plant units that make up 40 percent of domestic electric power production. The highest achievable level of nuclear safety has always been a priority for both the operators and the relevant state agencies involved in regulation and inspection. Especially now, when we can see signs of nuclear power revival, the Agency has a unique capability in providing technical support and assistance to its Member States in introducing nuclear power or expanding their existing civil nuclear programmes. Agency-based sharing of experience and best practice is crucial for achieving appropriate level of safety not only in nuclear power generation. In this context we also wish to commend the Agency for its effort to cooperate with other relevant international organizations when formulating or improving its safety standards, which helps to harmonize high level of protection of people and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation worldwide. As a member of the European Union, we especially appreciate wide collaboration between EU Member States and relevant EU institutions with the IAEA in

nuclear safety matters. The Agency's safety principles and recommendations constitute, together with the Convention on Nuclear Safety, a basis of a new legally binding EU Directive establishing a Community framework for the safety of nuclear installations, which was adopted recently under the Czech Presidency of the EU.

Madam President,

my country has always regarded the Agency's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, which represents a unique platform for exchange of information, experience and technical and scientific know-how, as an essential tool for further development of participating Member States in all regions. We however perceive a changing international environment including positions of a number of Member States – especially in respect to their relation with the IAEA, which is becoming more of a partnership - as well as different development needs of individual regions. Therefore we are actively participating in formulating the TC Strategy for the Europe region, a unique document of its kind, which should outline a basic vision of the TC Programme in our region and set up main strategic objectives and means of achieving them.

Being aware of the benefits, the Czech Republic has always provided full support to the TC Programme and other Agency's activities, both in terms of necessary funds and expertise. We continue to pay our contributions to the TCF including the National Participation Costs (NPCs) in full and on time and co-finance implementation of our single national project. Moreover, in the last twelve years, we provided voluntary contributions amounting to almost four million of USD to support various activities in other Member States both through the TC Programme and Agency's specific extrabudgetary funds and other programmes like the Nuclear Security Fund and PACT.

In conclusion, let me reassure the Secretariat of continuous full support and cooperation of my country.

Thank you, Madam President.