

Madam President,

Norway has aligned itself with the statement by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union. I will therefore focus my intervention on a few key points.

We live in challenging times, but they are also times of historic opportunities. The recent commitments of US President Barack Obama and other world leaders to a safer world without nuclear weapons is highly encouraging. At the same time the increasing interest in nuclear energy has reinvigorated IAEA's indispensable work to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies. The recent entry into force of the African Pelindaba Treaty is in itself a landmark that should give new momentum towards our common goal of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East.

Dr Mohamed ElBaradei has led the IAEA through great challenges, preventing nuclear material and technology from being used for military purposes and ensuring that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way. For this work, he and the organisation were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian Nobel Committee in 2005. Norway is thankful for the work of Dr ElBaradei and we join others in congratulating him on his efforts. I also want to extend Norway's best wishes and congratulations to Ambassador Amano on the approval of his appointment as the next Director General. We can assure you of Norway's continued strong support to the IAEA.

Madam President,

The IAEA was established to increase the contribution made by nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, with due consideration of the needs of developing countries. At the same time, the Agency was to ensure that no assistance provided could be used to further military purposes. With the conclusion of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968, the IAEA's mandate was broadened to include safeguards of *all* peaceful nuclear activities in the non-nuclear weapon states of the Treaty. For more than half a century, we have witnessed the importance of Agency safeguards, as well as its safety and security services, to the international non-proliferation and safety regimes. This is no less true today, as we continue to face the threats of nuclear weapons proliferation and terrorism, as well as the ever-present risk of a nuclear accident. We still need to be more effective in handling these challenges. In our view, the following should be our key priorities:

1. To peacefully resolve the cases of Iran and DPRK. Iran must comply with its international obligations and cooperate fully with the Agency with a view to resolving all outstanding issues regarding past or present nuclear activities. The DPRK must refrain from any further provocations, such as nuclear testing, and return to the Six-Party talks immediately and without preconditions. Nobody is calling into question any country's right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. However, we expect full compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and urge Iran, DPRK and other states of concern to cooperate fully with the IAEA.
2. All Member States must collaborate to create a stronger, more viable nuclear non-proliferation regime. Only through the Additional Protocol will the IAEA be able to verify the exclusively peaceful nature of a country's nuclear programme. Norway calls upon all countries that have not yet done so, including Iran and Syria, to sign, ratify and implement the Additional

Protocol at the earliest possible date. From our standpoint, the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol constitutes the verification standard.

3. Norway urges all Member States to support the establishment of a nuclear fuel bank under IAEA auspices. This will be the first step towards an equitable and safe multilateral nuclear fuel assurance regime. It will be voluntary and based on extra-budgetary contributions by Member States. The objective of the fuel bank is to facilitate the implementation of NPT Article IV, not to constrain it.
4. The prevention of nuclear accidents, sabotage or terrorism must remain a key priority. Norway has ratified all international conventions and agreements in this area, most recently the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM). We urge all other Member States to do the same and to make use of and support IAEA assistance programmes for their implementation.
5. Nuclear risks must be addressed in a comprehensive manner. We cannot just wait for a disaster to happen. Norway shares the view that we must increase our capacity to swiftly secure any vulnerable nuclear materials or radioactive sources. Nuclear disarmament is also part of this agenda. We welcome the US initiative to address this challenge at the highest political level in Washington next year.
6. Securing the safety of our workers, citizens and the environment is a continuing challenge. The IAEA Safety Standards are an indispensable reference. However, the Agency's statutory work suffers from unpredictable and insufficient funding, and has done so for far too long. Norway would like

to see regular, predictable funding of the IAEA's work on safety in the future.

7. Promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology is at the heart of the IAEA's mandate. The IAEA is increasingly being regarded as a development organisation, as was reflected in the recent decisions by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). We reiterate that the IAEA can contribute positively to meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals, in close partnership with other UN organisations, and we welcome new reports on achievements in this field.
8. Our position on nuclear energy is well known. We fully support Article IV of the NPT and respect every country's sovereign right to choose its own energy mix. But nuclear energy must not come at the expense of non-proliferation, human safety or the environment, and nuclear energy is not necessarily the best way to meet a country's energy needs, as we expect this year's Scientific Forum to confirm. The Agency must be ready to assist in the overall assessment of the options of Member States that request assistance in energy planning.

In conclusion, Madam President,

Norway considers the IAEA to be one of the most important international organisations for security and sustainable development. We have a historic opportunity to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. We must seize this opportunity and ensure that this year's General Conference regains consensus on important decisions. To this I pledge my delegation's full cooperation.

Thank you, Madam President.