

STATEMENT

by Mr. Yuriy Prodan, Minister for Fuel and Energy of Ukraine, Head of the Delegation of Ukraine at the 53d session of the IAEA General Conference
(September 14, 2009, Vienna)

Madam Chair,

At the outset I would like to associate myself with the statement of the delegation of Sweden on behalf of the EU.

Allow me also to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairperson of the 53d session of the IAEA General Conference.

We also would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new IAEA member states and wish them very success in their cooperation with the Agency. Expansion of the IAEA membership is an additional proof to the Agency's growing authority.

Esteemed participants of the IAEA General Conference,

Ukraine supports the Agency's efforts to strengthen the cooperation of states in preserving knowledge and experience in the nuclear energy sector, on the issues of nuclear safety and the enhancement of regulatory authorities' capacities. This goes in line with Ukraine's policy.

We fully support the IAEA's role and efforts in the sphere of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and implementation of Agency's safeguards. Ukraine strictly fulfills its international obligations under the Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol. Let me reiterate once again Ukraine's firm position, that the achieving by the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system of a universal character should be considered as the priority task for the Agency. The implementation of the IAEA safeguards in the countries conducting intensive nuclear activities requires a particular attention of the IAEA.

We share the deep concern of the international community on the recent developments of the DPRK's nuclear programme. We appeal to Pyongyang to implement its existing commitments without delay, take necessary steps toward and fully abide by the resolutions of the IAEA General Conferences and the UN Security Council.

We acknowledge Iran's inherent right to peaceful use of nuclear energy. With this understanding we support the IAEA's efforts aimed at receiving adequate guarantees of peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. We believe that the Tehran's transparent and prompt cooperation with the Agency is essential for consideration of issue of closure of the "Iranian nuclear dossier".

The investigation of the Syrian nuclear issue requires an active cooperation of all states involved within the framework of the Agency.

We call on all IAEA Member States to do their utmost to ensure non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and non-diversion of nuclear technologies into military applications.

Madam Chair,

We positively note the IAEA's assistance to national governments for meeting their international obligations, particularly under UN Security Council Resolutions 1540(2004) and 1673(2006).

In view of the increasing threat of nuclear proliferation Ukraine supports the call for expeditious beginning of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

We highly appreciate the Agency's efforts to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials and stand for strengthening the security regime of nuclear

materials. According to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources the set of the relevant measures is being actively implemented in Ukraine to strengthen the security of radioactive sources. I am pleased to announce that Ukraine officially joins the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

We call for more broad and extensive international cooperation to reduce the global threat of possible use of nuclear and radioactive materials for terrorist purposes. This year the Parliament of Ukraine has ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We call other states that haven't yet done so to ratify the Amendment to the Convention without delay.

Safety performance indicators for the Ukrainian NPPs are being kept at a high level and correspond to existing national and international standards and requirements. With the assistance of the IAEA we continue to improve our national legislation and strengthen the institutional capabilities of the national regulatory body.

We would like to underline the progress in implementation of the joint EC-IAEA-Ukraine Joint Project on Safety Evaluation of Ukrainian NPPs within the Memorandum of Understanding between Ukraine and the EC on Cooperation in the Field of Energy. Ukraine views the IAEA missions on physical security and operational safety as an efficient tool for enhancement of the security and safety levels of our nuclear facilities in operation.

We are glad to report that last year Kiev hosted the 15th Annual international forum of the heads of regulatory authorities of the countries operating VVER type reactors.

Let me also share Ukraine's positive assessment of the results of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy in the 21 Century held in Beijing under the IAEA auspices, which, inter alia, addressed the issue of establishment of the Global Nuclear Safety Network.

Ukraine is satisfied with the functioning of the IAEA Response Network and operation of the IAEA Incident and Emergency Center. We consider it as a positive development that 23 countries, including Ukraine, have already joined the Illicit Trafficking Database established by the IAEA.

Of equal importance are the Agency's activities in ensuring radiation safety and radioactive waste management. In the national report on compliance with the obligations under the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management Ukraine has demonstrated that it had been employing the right methods and techniques and maintains a high safety level in this area. Ukraine calls on the states that have not yet done so to join the Convention without delay.

This year Ukraine has adopted the National Strategy for Radioactive Waste Management for the period until 2059. This document will allow us to ensure safe radioactive waste management taking into account the best international practice.

We successfully implement the National Plan of Nuclear Security for 2006-2009.

We positively note the progress in such a crucial domain in the work of the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat as strengthening the partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations, other partners to attract additional resources and enhance efficiency with the aim to achieve the statutory goals of the Agency. During the last year the Agency has been actively developing cooperation with other key international organizations and actors. As the result, some important documents were signed: Agreement with the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Organization, Agreement on Co-operation with the European Nuclear Education Network, Memorandum of Understanding between the Agency and the International Science and Technology

Center. There also continues a fruitful cooperation of the Agency with the International Generation IV Forum.

Ukraine supports the increasing research activities of the IAEA concerning the innovative reactors and fuel cycles. Since the last year Ukraine has been offering the relevant cost-free expert services to the International INPRO project. We have also joined the project “Global Architecture of Innovative Nuclear Systems Based on Thermal And Fast Reactors Including a Closed Fuel Cycle” (GAINS) and already launched a research work under it.

The mitigation of aftermath of the Chernobyl accident remains of the utmost importance for Ukraine. This year the Parliament of Ukraine passed the law “On the National Programme for Decommissioning of the Chernobyl NPP and Transformation the Object “Shelter” into Environmentally Safe System”. A substantial portion of the state budget has been repeatedly allocated to support this task. Today we are very close to start the project on construction of a new safe confinement over the destroyed Unit 4 of the Chernobyl NPP. We expect the fruitful cooperation with the IAEA on the Chernobyl issue to be continued.

Ukraine notes positively the measures envisaged in the Interagency Chernobyl Action Plan (within the UN system) and particularly the arrangements for and conduct of the seminar “The third decade (2006-2016) of cooperation and actions aimed at social and economic rehabilitation of the territories suffered from the Chernobyl catastrophe”. As the result of this important event the UN Action Plan on Chernobyl to 2016 was adopted.

Madam Chair,

Ukraine expresses its satisfaction with the adoption of the balanced Technical Cooperation Programme for 2009-2011.

High appraisal should be given to the IAEA for elaboration of the document “The European regional profile for 2009-2013” which was unanimously approved by the IAEA Member States of the European region in 2008 and serves as the roadmap for the current regional cooperation.

We would also like to report on the considerable progress in implementing national projects on the training of maintenance personnel and lifetime extension of the Ukrainian NPPs. We are very interested in further work on the new project “Knowledge Management in the Nuclear Energy Complex of Ukraine” scheduled to be carried out in 2009-2011.

Owing to the active cooperation with the Agency we have the great opportunity not only to benefit from the best practices in nuclear energy sector development, but also to share Ukraine’s experience in this field with the interested states.

Ukraine welcomes the Agency’s activities to promote dissemination of knowledge on peaceful application of nuclear technologies. We intend to continue further an active cooperation with the IAEA in development and implementation of the regional programmes addressing the issues of non-power applications of nuclear technologies, namely medical applications, dosimetry, as well as assistance in mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Despite the current difficulties in the world economy, Ukraine nevertheless stands for the 2010 Agency Budget which will secure sufficient and adequate funding of all the IAEA’s statutory goals bearing in mind the need for further development of the Organization.

Madam Chair,

I would like to take this opportunity and extend congratulations of the delegation of Ukraine to Mr. Yukiya Amano on the occasion of his appointment as the Director General of the IAEA. We believe it were his outstanding professional skills and personal merits that prompted this decision. We wish the Director General elect very success in managing the Agency and would like to reassure him that Ukrainian organizations and experts will make their best to support the work of his new office.

We want to join others in supporting the IAEA Annual Report for 2008 and expressing high appreciation for the work of the IAEA Director General Mr. El Baradei and the Agency's Secretariat.

Ukraine will continue its active involvement in the IAEA activities.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion I would like to say few words on behalf of the Organization on Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM, which includes Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Our countries fully comply with obligations under the safeguards agreements and additional protocols. All nuclear installations, nuclear and radioactive materials on the territories of our states are subjects to comprehensive inspections of the Agency.

Last year in the framework of the Program of Technical Cooperation GUAM countries received assistance worth totally of more than 3 millions of US dollars, which as twice as more that relevant indicator of 2007. In our turn, our governments regularly provided the Agency with national experts to participate in seminars and courses, conducting of inspections, provided free-cost services to the Secretariat, as well as organized and conducted a range of events under the IAEA auspices.

We are fully satisfied with the level of cooperation achieved between the GUAM countries and the IAEA Secretariat.

In future we will actively contact with the Agency on working out of the national and regional programs of priority.

We continue common activity under the Memorandum of the GUAM countries on cooperation and mutual support in nuclear and radiation safety. In this regard we believe that continuation and extension of technical and political cooperation with all interested countries is very useful.

Thank you for attention.