

Statement on behalf of
The Republic of Hungary

Delivered by

Mr. Pál Kovács

Deputy State Secretary for Climate and Energy Affairs
Ministry of National Development

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Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you for being elected to preside over this very important conference. Please be assured that the Hungarian delegation will do its best to help you in discharging your duties. I am sure that with your able leadership this Conference will be a success.

I would like to join others in greeting the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Tonga as new members of the Agency. I would like to express our openness to cooperate with them in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Mr. President,

We wish to contribute with our overall endeavours to create an environment conducive to the successful organization of an international conference on a Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East envisaged to be held in 2012. In this regard we commend the Director General to convene a Forum later this year on the same subject with a special focus on the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons. We are looking forward to fruitful and constructive consultations at this Forum.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates

Let me give you now account of the Hungarian participation at the 5th Review Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The Review Conference found that the Hungarian efforts to operate our nuclear installations safely are

up to date and give reasonable assurance to the public. At this point I am calling all Member States that have not done so, to join this important Convention.

Being a contracting party to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, Hungary is looking forward to a fruitful review meeting next year. Let me add here that Hungary assigns great importance to the efforts – supported effectively by the IAEA Secretariat – on improving interactions, assuring knowledge transfer, as well as continuity between subsequent review meetings.

Mr. President,

The world has changed on 11 March 2011. We have learned the name of Fukushima in Japan. In this context let me express our sympathy to the Japanese people who suffered from the consequences of an enormous earthquake and the following tsunami. The accident at the Japanese nuclear power station has called for an immediate safety reassessment of the European reactors. Hungary has started its own reassessment as well. The operator has submitted the first progress report to the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority. The Regulatory Body forwarded its opinion on the current status of the targeted safety reassessment to the European Union. Both reports are available to the public.

Hungary has made significant efforts prior to the Fukushima accident to reshape its emergency preparedness system in the light of the latest achievements in the field. We have adopted a revised organisational structure of the emergency responders and a revised regulation was formulated. Regarding emergency preparedness Hungary is organising already the second training course on nuclear emergency management (TRANEM) with the support of the EU.

Hungary has successfully hosted an INEX-4 emergency preparedness exercise last year simulating an explosion of a “dirty bomb” in a heavy traffic environment.

The operator has made significant progress in its preparations for managing beyond design base accidents. This is an ongoing process and at the conclusion of the current operations it will, among others, enable the external cooling of the reactor pressure vessel. Another important feature of the current amendment is the creation of the beyond design base accident management guide.

Mr. President,

As we reported to the General Conference in previous years, the above-surface part of the National Radioactive Waste Repository in the vicinity of Bataapati village was completed three years ago and the construction of the first underground disposal chambers is in progress. The Interim Storage Facility for Spent Fuel at Paks is being extended according to plans and the next modules (No. 17-20) are to be put in operation by the end of next year.

As Hungary is preparing to build new units at the Paks Nuclear Power Plant site, it was necessary to revisit the legal background to such an operation. Thus the Hungarian Parliament approved the modification of the Act on Atomic Energy. The main reason for the changes was to incorporate into the Hungarian legal system, according to the EU regulations, the safety related reference levels elaborated and issued by the Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association (WENRA). At the same time the modifications will create a clear legal environment for the process of commissioning of new units and for the operation of the NPP. In parallel with the amendment of the Act on Atomic Energy the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority has revised the volumes of the Nuclear Safety Code and the Government accepted and issued their new version.

Mr. President,

The Paks NPP has submitted the plan of the lifetime extension to the regulatory body. Following the regulatory review of the plan the operator is working on the implementation of this plan taking into account the suggestions. By the end of this year, as all planned operations will be successfully concluded, HAEA is expected to assess the application and to issue the licence for the extension of the service life of unit 1 of the Paks NPP by the end of 2012. The service life extension for the other 3 units will follow in the coming years.

Mr. President,

We consider as an acknowledgement of Hungarian nuclear expertise that our experts are invited into several IAEA missions like the Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission to Korea, the International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission to Cuba and the fact finding mission to Japan as well as an Emergency Preparedness and Review Services mission to Latvia.

Similarly as our experts are invited to take part in IAEA missions, Hungary invites IAEA missions as well. This year we have invited the QUATRO follow-up mission to the National Institute of Oncology to present the progress in cancer patient treatment compared to the findings of the audit in 2005. The follow-up audit will take place in a fortnight. We have also invited a SALTO mission to the NPP. The comprehensive report is being prepared by the participants.

Mr. President,

In the first semester of 2011 Hungary held the presidency of the Council of the European Union. In this position Hungary initiated the joint meeting of the EU Energy Council and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators (ENSREG) immediately after the news of the Fukushima accident hit the world. This

session assessed the nuclear safety situation in Europe and at this meeting the parties initiated to execute the “stress test” of all nuclear power reactors in the EU. Hungary is taking part in this testing as I have mentioned before.

Hungary has played a leading role to formulate the European Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM establishing a Community Framework for the Responsible and Safe Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste. This Directive will allow EU member states to address their radioactive waste and spent fuel management challenges in a harmonized way and in accordance with IAEA Safety Standards.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

I am taking pride in informing you that this year Hungary has hosted the European Safeguards Research and Development Association’s (ESARDA) annual meeting. Over 250 participants attended this conference. The large number of attendants shows the dedication of the countries in Europe to maintain and improve the safeguards regime by various research and development activities.

As in each year Hungary is giving account of the successful organization of the safeguards inspection training in our country. The course gives the opportunity to safeguards inspectors to exercise and to develop their skills to meet the challenges they are facing in their everyday work. We support the safeguards activities of the Agency by developing novel methods for safeguards purposes as well.

Mr. President,

I am turning now to Technical Cooperation issues. Hungary attaches great importance to the third pillar of the IAEA, and is of the view that Technical

Cooperation should play an important role in making life easier through the use of nuclear techniques where appropriate.

The Agency is approaching the end of the extraordinary 3-year TC cycle. The exercise has shown that 3 years tend to be too long in planning TC activities in advance. Regional projects in this cycle were characterized by several “planning” meetings, which in our view is a waste of resources.

I am sure that my colleagues from the TC Europe region share my view that the adoption of the TC Europe strategy created a new environment for the cooperation of the Secretariat and of Member States. This is an environment of partnership where each participant can contribute to the formulation of the program, at the same time each participant can enjoy the helping hand of the Agency and that of fellow Member States. I commend the Agency for taking the courage to adopt such a new approach in Technical Cooperation matters and for having the strength to act in accordance with the spirit of the strategy.

Hungary attaches great importance to the successful implementation of the Peaceful Uses Initiative announced by the US delegation at last year’s NPT Review Conference. My Government is considering to take active part in granting support and proposing projects in the framework of this important initiative.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

As I have stated earlier, Fukushima has changed the world. The IAEA faced the challenges posed by the accident and swung into action. Those actions included sending radiation protection experts to Japan, sending a fact-finding mission to the stricken plant, publishing the report of the fact-finding mission, convening the Ministerial Conference in Vienna and the latest result of this activity is the draft Action Plan which in our view reflects the most important directions in addressing the lessons taught by the Fukushima accident, though the process is

far from being over. We consider that the immediate response given by the IAEA was appropriate, and the direction the Secretariat is taking moves us forward to enhance safety at nuclear installations.

The accident at Fukushima raised concerns in the world towards using nuclear energy for electricity production. Several countries have stated to phase out their nuclear power plants, others have reconsidered their plans to embark on nuclear power. Hungary has made an appraisal of pros and cons of using nuclear technology for energy production and it shows that we cannot securely meet the public need for electricity without relying on nuclear energy. For this reason Hungary is committed to extend the service life of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant and will continue the preparations for building new units at the same site. In this process we have already enjoyed the professional support of the Agency and we count on it in the future as well.

In conclusion let me assure the Director General and the Secretariat of Hungary's ongoing support in achieving our common goal: "Atoms for Peace".

Thank you, Mr. President!