



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND  
VIENNA

## STATEMENT BY FINLAND

60<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the IAEA

General debate

H.E. Ambassador Hannu Kyröläinen

Governor of Finland

Mr President,

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the 60<sup>th</sup> General Conference. I assure you of the full support of my delegation. I also wish to thank the outgoing President, for his excellent work and guidance in the General Conference last year. Further, I express my gratitude to the IAEA Director General Amano. His devoted input to the work of the Agency signifies continuity Finland highly appreciates, especially in the current situation. I also express my gratitude to the Secretariat for their continued professional and impartial work. Finland would also like to congratulate IAEA on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I associate myself fully with the statement made by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr President,

Finland has produced **nuclear energy** safely, reliably and efficiently for almost 40 years. The operation of the nuclear power plants together with modernisation, improvement and construction projects have increased knowhow throughout the nuclear related industry in Finland. We attach great importance to the improvement of **nuclear safety** and Finland has consistently supported the Agency's activities in this area. It is essential that countries using nuclear power, or embarking on nuclear power, have a sound legislative and regulatory framework on nuclear and radiation safety.

Risk of an accident remains, and therefore preparedness to act in case of a nuclear or radiological emergency is fundamental. One of the observations from Fukushima Daiichi accident was the need to enhance regional and bilateral co-operation in nuclear or radiological emergencies. Finland has such an arrangement with the Nordic countries and with the Russian Federation, in line with the IAEA practices.

Currently we have two ongoing **NPP projects**. Firstly, the construction and installation works of the Olkiluoto 3 nuclear power plant unit have been finalised and the project has entered into the commissioning phase. Teollisuuden Voima has submitted an operating license application for the Olkiluoto 3 in April 2016. Secondly Fennovoima has submitted a construction license application for Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power plant unit in 2015. Both of the license applications are expected to be dealt with by the Government in 2018. These new builds, together with the currently operating four nuclear power plant units, and increased renewable energy, will play a very important role in the electricity production and in achieving our emission reduction targets. They also support the long term energy policy goal of the Government of Finland to achieve coal free electricity production.

Responsible use of nuclear energy includes **nuclear waste management** strategy. This should always be considered from the very beginning of the development of a nuclear power programme. Since the 59<sup>th</sup> General Conference, the Government of Finland granted a construction license for the final underground repository for spent nuclear fuel called "Onkalo". Onkalo is now globally the first final disposal facility project that has proceeded into the construction phase. It will make use of the most advanced technology that has in main part been developed in Finland. It will meet strict safety, security and safeguards requirements. The encapsulation and final disposal process of spent fuel is scheduled to start in the beginning of 2020's.

Mr President,

An association called "FinNuclear" has been founded in order to offer networks for the companies in the nuclear field to find the right partners and resources for their projects. FinNuclear Association's purpose is to promote Finnish companies' general preconditions, cooperation and competences in the nuclear energy field. FinNuclear covers the whole lifecycle of nuclear power plants and associated plants from design to the waste management and decommissioning as well as modernisation and research activities. The Associations activities support the safe use of nuclear energy by ensuring the availability of resources, services and equipment. FinNuclear offers also education and guidance for the companies to develop their procedures to fulfil the demanding requirements and needs of nuclear industry.

Mr. President,

**The threat of nuclear weapons proliferation** continues to be a serious concern and the international community must take appropriate measures in the cases of non-compliance in order to preserve the integrity of the non-proliferation regime and its cornerstone, the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT). The universalization of the Treaty and full compliance with the Treaty's provisions are of utmost importance.

Mr President,

Finland strongly condemns the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 September. The nuclear test continues North Korea's series of grave violations of international obligations, which have become alarmingly common during this year. North Korea's nuclear test on 6 January, and several missile launches after that are indefensible violations of international agreements and obligations and extremely dangerous for the stability of the region. We urge DPRK to fully observe its international obligations, abandon its nuclear programme and commit to close cooperation with the international community, including the Agency.

Mr. President,

The **security of nuclear materials and facilities** is also given a high priority in my country. Finland stresses the importance of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and welcomes the entering into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. My government continues to provide financial and in-kind support to the IAEA's Nuclear Security activities. In addition to the collective EU contribution, Finland is a longstanding contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund (NSF). I am pleased to announce that Finland is considering an additional contribution to the Nuclear Security Fund for 2017.

Mr President,

Finland welcomes the ongoing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that was reached between the E3/EU+3 and Iran in June last year. We look forward to the swift implementation by Iran of all its commitments in relation to the JCPOA.

Finland gives full support to the IAEA in implementing the necessary verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear related commitments as set in the JCPOA and recalls the importance to ensure the necessary means for the Agency to carry out its role.

Recognizing that the application of safeguards is one of the statutory functions of the Agency, Finland welcomes the decision made by the June Board of Governors on the gradual integration, over the years 2017-2019, to the Agency Regular Budget of the inspector costs required for the monitoring and verification of the implementation of the JCPOA. We see this decision necessary for the predictability and sustainability of the Agency's work.

Finland has, so far, contributed 800 000 euros to support the Agency in implementing the verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments as set out in the JPA and JCPOA. Recognizing the continued need for voluntary contributions, Finland is considering additional financial contribution in support of the Agency's verification and monitoring activities in Iran also in the future.

Mr President,

In conclusion, Mr. President, I want to thank the IAEA for its work contributing to international peace and security, and assure the Agency of our continuous support for its valuable work in promoting safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

Thank you, Mr President.

