



# Statement on behalf of Hungary

Delivered by

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International Atomic Energy Agency

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**Mr President,**

I would like to extend our congratulations to you on your election to preside over the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I would like to ensure you of my delegation's full support.

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Slovak Republic on behalf of the European Union.

I am pleased to welcome the Islamic Republic of Gambia, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as new members of the Agency.

**Mr President, Distinguished Delegates,**

The sixtieth General Conference provides a special occasion for Member States to acknowledge and appraise the tremendous work undertaken by the IAEA in various fields of nuclear technology.

Over the past several decades, the Agency evolved into a proficient organization that provides thorough analysis on nuclear matters, and supports programs that improve living conditions and life expectancy in less-developed regions of the world.

The IAEA has always been active in protecting the world from the dangers of uncontrolled atomic energy and at the same time promoting the peaceful use of nuclear techniques.

I am proud to say that Hungary has been a Party to this distinguished community from the very beginning, and greatly benefited from its expertise and professional services. We wish to reiterate our dedication to the Agency's mission.

**Mr President,**

Worldwide, **nuclear energy** is becoming more and more **an indispensable energy source**, especially within the context of **climate change**. The adoption of the Paris Agreement last year and the on-going transformation of the energy sector into a low-carbon industry will place **a higher value on nuclear energy** as a clean and reliable electricity generation technology.

Hungary attributes a major role to **nuclear power**, and opted for its **long-term maintenance in the energy mix**. In accordance with our **National Energy Strategy**, we intend to maintain the existing nuclear capacity in order to guarantee the **security of energy supply** and ensure **affordable and clean energy** for our citizens.

**The lifetime extension programme** of the Paks NPP is being carried out duly. The operation license of Unit 3 will expire in December 2016. The application for a twenty years lifetime extension has already been submitted to the national regulatory authority.

On the basis of the Hungarian-Russian Intergovernmental Agreement signed in 2014, Hungary is moving forward with the **capacity maintenance project of the Paks NPP**.

**Mr President,**

Hungary believes that the **highest standards of nuclear safety must be achieved** in every stages of a country's nuclear power programme. We consider the activities of the IAEA essential in promoting nuclear safety throughout the world. Over the years, Hungary has greatly benefited from the Agency's nuclear safety services.

In June 2016, an IAEA mission was carried out to review **the emergency preparedness and response arrangements** in Hungary. The Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) proved that Hungary is generally well-prepared for any nuclear or radiological emergency.

I am confident that the findings will help us improve the activities of the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority and other competent authorities to further enhance our emergency preparedness and response system to adequately respond to nuclear and radiological emergencies.

**I turn now, Mr President, to the issue of nuclear security.**

These days, the risk of nuclear terrorism remains very real. Improving **nuclear security** is our constantly evolving responsibility as the threat changes, technologies shift, and new vulnerabilities are revealed. However, tangible developments have been made in 2016 in respect to the enhancement of the global nuclear security framework.

The **2016 Nuclear Security Summit** achieved new international commitments that will help decrease the global nuclear security risk for the coming years. Hungary has taken an active part in the NSS Process, for instance by implementing international provisions and recommendations at a national level, as well as participating in various programs and activities at an international level. Hungary's high ranking by the **NTI Nuclear Security Index** shows the progress my country has made in the field of nuclear security.

Let me also mention that in the margins of the Summit, Hungary has received a prestigious international recognition, *“the Atoms for Peace Award”* for removing highly enriched uranium from its territory.

Hungary also welcomes the **Entry into Force** of the 2005 Amendment to the *Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material* on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, which improves and modernizes the international legal framework for nuclear security.

In recognition of Hungary's leadership in advancing nuclear forensics as part of a nuclear security infrastructure, the IAEA has recently designated the **Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre for Energy Research as an official Collaborating Centre in Nuclear Forensics**. Hungary looks forward to the inauguration of the Collaborating Centre as well as a strengthened technical collaboration with the Agency in nuclear forensics.

**Mr President,**

International events over the past years, especially the Agreement with Iran and the implementation of the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* made **the IAEA safeguards and verification activities** increasingly relevant. Hungary highly values the Agency's outstanding work in improving and modernizing safeguards technology and we believe that it has a vital contribution to international peace and security.

It has been slightly more than fourteen months since **the conclusion of the Agreement between Iran and the EU/E3+3**. We highly commend DG Amano and the Agency for the valuable work undertaken in the areas of verification and monitoring.

Hungary **supports the Agency's verification tasks in Iran** by providing in-field training opportunities for safeguards inspectors. We look forward to further collaboration with the IAEA on this crucial issue; and we continue to offer our skills and capabilities available in the safeguards field.

Touching upon the issue of safeguards let me also mention that this year **Hungary celebrated a special anniversary** which is of great significance in the history of our cooperation with the IAEA. 25 years have passed since the **Hungarian Safeguards Support Programme** was established, wherein we offered our expertise and facilities for the most diverse IAEA safeguards training activities. The Safeguards Support Programme clearly demonstrates that Member States, including Hungary can effectively contribute to the strengthening of the international safeguards system.

**Mr President,**

This year also marks the **twentieth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**, a key instrument of the international regime on nuclear non-proliferation. Nevertheless, the Treaty's ratification process has not been completed which prevents it from fulfilling its objective. The **DPRK's recent nuclear tests** should serve as a serious reminder to the international community to make efforts to bring the Treaty into force.

**Hungary strongly condemns the actions of North Korea** which are clear violations of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the General Conferences of the IAEA and calls upon the DPRK to comply with its international obligations.

**Mr President,**

Hungary attaches great importance to the Agency's **technical cooperation activities**. We are of the view that the participation and experience of those countries having advanced nuclear and radiological infrastructure is indispensable in technical cooperation. Therefore, Hungary has offered the expertise of Hungarian facilities and experts in several fields to the Agency in the framework of the 2016-17 TC for Europe Programme.

**Mr President.**

Hungary's professional involvement in the work of the Agency has led to a **strong recognition of our nuclear expertise** at an international level. We place a special emphasis on promoting equally high levels of nuclear safety globally, also in countries embarking on nuclear power.

In conclusion, I would like to extend once again Hungary's sincere congratulations to the IAEA on the occasion of the sixtieth General Conference, and express our best wishes for future success in the Agency's highly responsible work. Let me reassure you, Mr President that Hungary will continue to lend its full support to the IAEA.

**Thank you, Mr President.**