

STATEMENT

BY

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The 60th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

September 2016

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on presiding over this esteemed General Conference, and assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation.

Tonight, Israeli's 9th president, the honorable Shimon Peres, passed away at the age of 93. A man of peace, A man of vision, a man of inspiration and of great spirit.

He was one of Israel's founding fathers, serving our people up to his last days, respected all over the world, and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate. All his life he fostered science, technology and innovation for the benefit of mankind.

Allow me to respect him with a moment of silence.

Mr. President,

Israel recognizes and supports, the central role of the IAEA, in enhancing nuclear safety and security.

We look forward to the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions, organized by the IAEA.

This Conference will surely strengthen the global nuclear security architecture, and increase international dialogue significantly.

The nuclear security challenge is of paramount significance to Israel, due to the somber reality in the Middle East. We reiterate the need to enhance regional and international collaboration, in combatting nuclear terrorism.

Israel continues to follow IAEA guidance, regarding the security of nuclear facilities and the protection of nuclear materials.

Israel enforces regulations, in line with the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its amendment.

We have fulfilled all our commitments, including the submission of a report, on our national legislative implementation of the Convention.

Israel upholds the highest standard of physical protection measures in its nuclear centers.

Advanced security means and procedures are employed in domestic and international transport, as well as import and export processes.

Such measures are undertaken in accordance with Israel's international obligations, and in accordance with our national legislation.

Mr. President,

Instability in the Middle East has recently been worsened by the presence, and violent activity, of non-state actors, supported and funded by countries such as Syria and Iran.

The access of non-state actors to materials, which may be used for non-conventional weapons, combined with the motivation to conduct large-scale acts of violence, present a clear, and undeniable threat to global nuclear security.

As the Head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, I call upon my Arab colleagues, to join forces in professionally addressing this severe challenge.

The State of Israel has repeatedly underlined, its willingness to cooperate with **any** state in the Middle East, in strengthening security and safety.

Let me remind us all, that Syria remains under IAEA investigation due to its secretive pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Syria has been declared by the IAEA Board of Governors, in 2011 to be in non-compliance with its safeguard obligations.

The Agency's questions on this matter remain unanswered.

Mr. President,

We welcome the Arab Group's decision, to refrain from submitting a draft resolution, under an agenda item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities".

At the same time, we regret their request, to include on the General Conference's agenda, this agenda item, which leads to politicized, irrelevant discussions.

We will elaborate our position, on this issue, during the debate on this agenda item.

Mr. President,

When discussing the instability of our region, we cannot overlook the ongoing concerns, regarding Iran's nuclear program.

Despite the recent agreement, Iran continues to be a destabilizing force in the Middle East.

Its support of terrorist groups and its long range ballistic missile programs, present a real and increasing threat.

At the same time, we must address Iran's blatant concealment and duplicity, as demonstrated in their well-known weaponization activities.

Iran's commitment to the JCPOA must be evaluated with a long-term perspective, which must include its adherence to its international obligations, as well as transparency in its actions.

I remind you that in its recent words and deeds, Iran continues to threaten Israel directly, and via proxy organizations, such as Hezbollah.

Mr. President,

International peace and security continue to be jeopardized by these and other actions, including the recent nuclear test by the DPRK. **Israel condemns this act.**

Israel joins the international community in expressing concern regarding the danger posed by the DPRK to regional and global stability.

We believe that a strong and clear message must be sent to the DPRK and other nations that such actions are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Mr. President,

Israel continues to actively participate in the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program in various fields, including energy, health and agriculture.

Last year, as part of the TC Program, Israel hosted an interregional training workshop on Quality Assurance in Radiation Therapy.

39 representatives, from 13 countries participated. The workshop took place in a state of the art training center in Israel, where groundbreaking work, in simulation-based medical education, takes place.

Israel believes that the ability to benefit from such workshops and seminars must be within reach of all IAEA member states.

It is for this reason that Israel has decided to significantly increase its support for the Technical Cooperation Program in the coming year.

As an indication of our commitment to nuclear safety and security, Israel has recently donated 14 radiation detectors to the IAEA Division of Nuclear Security for use by Member States.

Israel continues to participate in various IAEA emergency response exercises, understanding the need for international collaboration in nuclear security and safety.

These exercises allow us to practically apply our coordinating ability, quick response time and emergency mechanisms, as well as display our willingness to assist other states in the region.

Mr. President,

Since joining the IAEA in 1957, Israel has been committed to the Agency and its important mission.

As part of this commitment, we have decided to mark the IAEA's 60th year, with a unique Israeli exhibition on display at the Rotunda.

This exhibition, entitled: "Rays of Hope" presents state of the art activities undertaken by Israel in collaboration with the IAEA.

Israel intends to continue to collaborate with the IAEA on such programs, and support the Agency in implementing its significant objectives, spreading "rays of hope" around the world.

I extend my personal invitation to all delegates to visit us at this showcase.

I wish us all a fruitful discussion, and continued collaboration, in the spirit and leadership of the IAEA. I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address this distinguished forum.

THANK YOU