



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
VIENNA

Statement
by
His Excellency Ambassador Moitinho de Almeida
Head of Delegation of Portugal
to the
60th IAEA General Conference
of the
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, 26-30 September 2016

Mr President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of this 60th General Conference and assure you of my delegation's support.

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and would like to make some additional comments, from a national point of view.

We commend Director General Amano for his important contribution to the work of the Agency for the past seven years. Portugal highly values Ambassador Amano's skilled and impartial guidance of the Agency and, thus, takes this opportunity to express its support to the renewal of his mandate as DG of the IAEA.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the 60th anniversary of the IAEA, it is fitting that we highlight the essential work that this Agency has been performing for the benefit of Humanity.

Sixty years ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency was founded to promote the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and simultaneously, to ensure that its assistance is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.

These objectives remain as relevant and challenging today. Therefore it is crucial that Member States remain steadfast in their support to the fulfillment of the IAEA's mandate.

Mr President,

Portugal would like to highlight the IAEA's unique responsibilities in the domains of non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety and nuclear security.

The NPT remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the framework for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with Article IV. Therefore, Portugal appeals to all States that have not yet done so to adhere to the NPT as non-nuclear weapons States.

The IAEA has a central role in achieving the goals of the NPT, by implementing the nuclear safeguards regime, while promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including by establishing and upholding international standards for nuclear safety and security.

Mr. President,

The only too recent (September 9th) nuclear test carried out by North Korea, its second this year and fifth overall, is a deeply troubling development, which the Portuguese government vehemently condemns. This new provocation by the DPRK's regime, in direct violation of multiple United Nations Security Council Resolutions, poses a grave threat to regional and global peace and security and underscores yet again the urgency of achieving the complete, verifiable and

irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The role of the IAEA, once an agreement is reached, will be crucial.

On the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement with Syria, Portugal regrets the continued non-compliance and absence of progress in this matter and echoes the DG's request to the Syrian authorities for full cooperation with the Agency in connection with all unresolved issues.

Portugal fully supports the Agency's role in the implementation of the agreement on Iran's nuclear programme reached in July last year. The IAEA's activities are crucial to the long-term verification regime established in the JCPOA and the necessary confidence and mutual trust crucially depend on these verification tools. The JCPOA demonstrated that complex non-proliferation challenges can be solved through commitment to a diplomatic solution, underpinned by the IAEA's verification capacities.

Portugal welcomes the applications for IAEA membership by Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Islamic Republic of Gambia.

We will continue to advocate the benefits of the Agency's programmes in fields such as agriculture, public health and fight against cancer, amongst others, with a view to encourage further applications for membership.

Mr. President,

As a member of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Program, Portugal is thankful to the Agency's assistance in the reorganization of its legal nuclear framework, the participation of Portuguese institutes in IAEA projects and of Portuguese experts in

the Agency's training opportunities. We are also grateful for the technical support regarding the Portuguese Research Reactor, and for the eventual installation of a cyclotron in the greater Lisbon area, which would be an important means for diagnosis and therapy of multiple diseases.

We look forward to the TCP Meeting of the European National Liaison Officers which will take place in Lisbon, on November 8th-10th.

In addition to being a TC beneficiary, Portugal has organized training programs for Portuguese Speaking countries, and, through the Regional Government of Madeira, has donated equipment to Morocco and Brazil.

On nuclear safety, and as requested to the IAEA in 2015 by the Portuguese Regulatory Commission for the Safety of Nuclear Installations (COMRSIN), the Portuguese research reactor underwent in February 2016 a safety review within the framework of an Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors (INSARR). We welcome the resulting international panel's important safety recommendations.

Mr. President,

The Dialogue between Coastal and Shipping States (DCSS), an informal mechanism aiming at building confidence and promoting transparency on the transportation of sensitive radioactive materials, has been achieving positive developments since its implementation in early 2000s.

Portugal commends the success of the Japanese chairmanship of the DCSS which has contributed to enhance mutual understanding, information sharing and practical arrangements for the transport of radioactive material.

At the end of this month (28/9), Portugal will take over the chairmanship of the DCSS. In this regard, Portugal thanks the IAEA for its support in the preparation of a table top exercise regarding the transportation of nuclear waste, to be held in 2017.

We are also following the Renovation of Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project that involves the Seibersdorf laboratories, which have been fundamental in assisting IAEA Member States in projects related to health, pest control, environment, food and agriculture, among others.

Portugal is an active supporter of the activities of the IAEA's International Emergency Centre and has provided national experts to take part on an Emergency Preparedness Review mission during 2016.

In July 2015, Portugal and Spain signed a Technical Cooperation Protocol on Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies and Environmental Radiological Protection, involving the Portuguese Environment Agency, the University of Lisbon, and the Nuclear Security Council of Spain. This Protocol has been presented to the IAEA in April 2016, and aims at enhancing bilateral cooperation in this important domain.

Mr. President,

Portugal considers Technical Cooperation to be a crucial part of the IAEA's mandate. Its Technical Cooperation Program remains instrumental to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Portugal shares the view that all Member States should have access to the Technical Cooperation Fund, in accordance with the IAEA Statute.

To conclude, Mr. President,

On this 60th IAEA's General Conference, Portugal takes the opportunity to reaffirm its enduring support to the Agency's role and hopes that our work in the coming days will contribute to advance the "Atoms for Peace and Development" agenda.

I thank you, Mr President.