

**Secretary Ernest Moniz**  
**IAEA remarks**  
**September 26, 2016**

**Opening**

- Thank you.
- Let me start with a personal message from President Obama:

*I send greetings as you gather in Vienna for the 60th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference.*

*Seven years ago in Prague, I outlined my vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and called on the international community to work together to strengthen the global nonproliferation regime. I am proud of what we have accomplished so far, and I commend the IAEA for playing a leading role in fostering the growth of safe, secure, and reliable nuclear energy.*

*It has now been over a year since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was reached among the P5+1 and Iran. Its implementation demonstrates what can be achieved through a commitment to informed, principled diplomacy. The IAEA's efforts to verify Iran's performance of its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA are vital and help assure us that the JCPOA is accomplishing its objective of ensuring Iran's nuclear program is and remains exclusively peaceful. The United States will continue to fully implement its commitments under the JCPOA, and we urge all parties to provide continued support to the IAEA's important verification role.*

*Earlier this year, I hosted the fourth Nuclear Security Summit to accelerate international efforts to reduce the evolving threat posed by nuclear terrorism and to make progress toward strengthened international norms and standards for nuclear security. While each of these Summits has contributed to bolstering the nuclear security structure at national, regional, and global levels, we must now look ahead to reaffirm the IAEA's essential and central coordinating role in the global nuclear security architecture and ensure that it continues to have the appropriate structure, resources, and expertise needed to carry out its mandated nuclear security activities.*

*I am confident that, by working together, real progress can be made in enhancing the nuclear nonproliferation regime and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Congratulations to the IAEA on six decades of progress—I wish you all the best for the years ahead.*

## **IAEA future**

- I agree wholeheartedly that we have made excellent progress, and now the IAEA takes on even greater importance. Across the four Nuclear Security Summits, states have taken tangible actions to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism and strengthen international norms and actions for nuclear security.
  - More than 3.8 metric tons of material was successfully removed or dispositioned.
  - 34 HEU-fueled research reactors and isotope production facilities in 18 countries were converted to use LEU fuel and targets or shut down.
  - All HEU was eliminated from 15 countries and Taiwan.

- 11 countries ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material this year, resulting in its entry-into-force.
- Maintaining momentum in all of these areas is critical. For my part, I will attend the IAEA Ministerial in December. I strongly encourage my counterparts to likewise attend.
- The IAEA has a big role to play for the foreseeable future – including verifying the JCPOA.
- The United States continues to support IAEA verification activities, with infrastructure, equipment, training, and experts needed to carry out safeguards inspections in 180 countries. We support effective implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements, additional protocols, and modified small quantity protocols.
- Finally, I want to underscore that nuclear energy is critical to combating climate change.
- President Obama and President Xi, with joint announcements in 2014 and 2016, changed the game on the climate discussion.

- As you saw last week in New York, there is a growing consensus that the world must address climate change together. To do that, we need clean energy technologies.
- This is why the U.S. pioneered the Peaceful Uses Initiative – to help countries benefit from clean nuclear energy and other nuclear technologies. These investments, and those by other contributors, help support the Sustainable Development Goals agreed in New York earlier this year.
- Civil nuclear power remains the largest part of American clean energy, and can be a powerful tool for bringing the world low-carbon electricity – but only if it can be done safely and securely and with broad public confidence.
- Mission Innovation, a joint effort of 20 countries and the EU, aims to double clean energy R&D in those countries, from roughly \$15 billion to \$30 billion. This redoubled investment will accelerate the pace of clean energy innovation.
- My Department, in partnership with the U.S. nuclear industry, is investing in innovative reactor technologies – from technologies to extend lifetimes and improve economics for today's reactors, to small

modular reactors for construction in the next decade, to next generation reactor designs for the longer term.

- I would note that four new reactors are under construction in the U.S. with a fifth about to begin operations, and dozens of companies backed by over \$1.6 billion in private capital are working to commercialize next generation nuclear reactor designs.
- Strong partnerships with research institutions and the leadership provided by the OECD-Nuclear Energy Agency and the IAEA continue to move us toward the goal of installing and beginning to test one or more advanced fuel concepts in commercial U.S. reactors by 2022.

## **Conclusion**

- We have made progress towards President Obama's Prague Vision and progress towards a clean energy future.
- The IAEA can help to ensure that the world can reap the benefits and minimize the risks of nuclear technologies as we carry forward toward the greater application of "atoms for peace and development".

### END ###