

**62nd GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

**CANADIAN STATEMENT
BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

Thank you, Madam President.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 62nd General Conference. Please be assured of Canada's full support towards the successful conclusion of this Conference.

Madam President,

Fifty years ago, in announcing Canada's signature of the NPT, Canadian External Affairs Minister, Mitchell Sharp, made the following statement:

“The Treaty [will be] an important factor in maintaining stability in areas of tension, in creating an atmosphere conducive to arms control and generally enhancing international stability. As a leading proponent of the Treaty and one of the major ‘near-nuclear’ signatories, Canada has an opportunity to provide leadership by demonstrating our faith in the non-proliferation [regime].”

Indeed, Madam President, as we celebrate the golden anniversary of the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime, our strong faith in the NPT and its achievements is unwavering. As a result of the Treaty, fewer states possess nuclear weapons than had been predicted half a century ago and the looming threat of nuclear war, once a catastrophic fear for many, is now diminished. But faith should not imply complacency! A nuclear conflict can and must be avoided. A reaffirmation of our unequivocal commitment as State Parties, rigorous implementation of safeguards by the IAEA and sustained efforts to continuously strengthen a regime that is crucial to international security, have allowed us to avoid a doomsday scenario, while making considerable advancements in the legitimate and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In order for us to continue to enjoy the net benefits of nuclear technology, we must remain vigilant and committed and spare no efforts reaffirming our commitment to this Treaty, ensuring its full implementation, advancing its universality and strengthening the non-proliferation regime.

In this regard Madam President, North Korea's ongoing pursuit of an illicit nuclear weapons program, which violates numerous UN Security Council resolutions, poses an unacceptable threat to the region and the world. North Korea's actions are destabilizing, they are provocative and undermine the legitimate uses of nuclear technology. And, while Canada is encouraged to see recent diplomatic engagement—including summits in the inter-Korean context as well as between North Korea and the US—and fully supports all efforts towards a political solution, the outcome can be no other than North Korea's complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

Madam President,

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate Canada's support for the Agency's role in monitoring and verifying the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an important framework reinforcing the non-proliferation regime, and a clear sign that multilateral diplomacy works. As such, we call on **Iran** to continue to fully comply with its JCPOA commitments to allow the Agency to provide assurances of the non-diversion of nuclear material and the absence of undeclared activities. Iran's early ratification of its Additional Protocol will also help to establish confidence that Iran's nuclear activities are exclusively peaceful in nature. To support the Agency's work on JCPOA, Canada is pleased to announce an additional extra-budgetary contribution of \$ 1.5 million.

Madam President,

Canada remains deeply concerned that, seven years after the Board of Governors reported **Syria** to the UN Security Council over the clandestine construction of a nuclear reactor, Syria has yet to respond to the IAEA's repeated requests to resolve that country's non-compliance with its non-proliferation obligations, in connection with outstanding questions about the Dair Alzour site and three other locations functionally related to that reactor. I would like to underscore Canada's long-held view that until the unresolved questions of Syria's past activities are definitively answered, the IAEA must remain seized of this matter. Doing otherwise would severely undermine the integrity and credibility of the NPT and its associated non-proliferation regime.

On a more positive note, Madam President, and in conformity with the objectives of the NPT, Canada welcomes the continued evolution of effective safeguards and supports the Agency's efforts to implement the **State-Level Concept** (SLC) for Member States with a safeguards agreement in force, a clear example of how the Agency and its Member States are working to strengthen nuclear verification. Given increasing demands for safeguards activities, Canada encourages the Agency, as it accumulates lessons learned, to continue to find efficiencies while ensuring effective safeguards implementation. We look forward to closely collaborating with the Agency to finalize the implementation of the State-level Approach for Canada.

Madam President,

As I alluded to earlier, another key pillar of Canada's nuclear policy is our commitment to the **peaceful uses of nuclear energy**. Canada sees an essential role for nuclear energy worldwide – as a key contributor to our economies, our energy security, and our clean energy transition objectives – both now and for decades to come. This is because nuclear energy is, and must continue to be, an important component of the global clean energy supply and a key element in our shared efforts to combat climate change.

It is for this reason that Canada continues to place itself at the forefront of nuclear energy innovation, investing in new laboratory facilities and fleet refurbishments, laying the groundwork for Canadian leadership in new technologies like Small Modular Reactors, and instigating multilateral conversations about the role of nuclear energy in our global future. This commitment underlies the work of our world class regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, which is

committed to the safety and security of Canada's nuclear industry, and to engagement internationally to share best practices and lessons learned.

Nuclear energy is, and must continue to be, an important component of the global supply of clean energy and in our efforts to combat climate change. Indeed, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has projected that nuclear energy generation must double by 2040 in order to meet our shared global climate goals. To this end, Canada recognizes the important role that baseload nuclear energy must play in complementing variable renewable technologies as we integrate them into a cleaner grid.

In support of these objectives, we are pleased to have partnered with the United States and Japan to launch the "Nuclear Innovation: Clean Energy Future" initiative at the ninth Clean Energy Ministerial in May of this year.

The initiative's goal is to ensure nuclear energy receives appropriate and proportionate representation in broader, high-level discussions on the global clean energy transition, and to explore innovative applications for advanced nuclear systems in future integrated clean energy systems. We have been joined by Argentina, Poland, Romania, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom in this initiative, and we encourage other Clean Energy Ministerial members to join.

Complementing this work, Canada is building on its long history of peaceful nuclear energy leadership through innovation in the emerging area of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). S-M-Rs have great potential in a variety of on- and off-grid applications, including in hybrid energy systems alongside variable

renewables. Canada is committed to exploring these innovative new technologies both at the Clean Energy Ministerial and in collaboration with our fellow IAEA Member States.

Madam President, while we are a strong proponent of the important role that nuclear energy and technology will play in helping us to meet our global climate commitments and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential to underline that a decision to use nuclear technology comes with important obligations regarding safety, security and non-proliferation.

Madam President,

We also welcome the Agency's continued efforts to help Member States fulfill their **nuclear security** responsibilities, without which the continued advancement and sharing of nuclear technology would not be possible. We are acutely aware of the ongoing resource challenges faced by the Agency's Nuclear Security Division, particularly in terms of securing more Regular Budget funding for staffing of the division, and the reliance on extra-budgetary funds for conducting nuclear security activities. We would thus continue to encourage the Agency to strengthen its implementation of the "One-House approach", in order to maximize efficiencies and reduce costs by considering upfront whether nuclear security activities could be included in other Agency assistance activities, for example.

For our part, we are pleased to announce that Canada has recently finalized an additional \$9.65 million contribution to the Nuclear Security Fund under this program, in order to enhance nuclear security through the sustainable management

of disused sealed radioactive sources in countries in Latin America, Africa and the Pacific.

Canada also continues to actively support the work of the Nuclear Security Contact Group, which was established to help transition leader-level Nuclear Security Summit commitments to the international nuclear security architecture. We congratulate Jordan for its leadership as Convener over the past year, having advanced the Contact Group's work with INTERPOL to address the risk of nuclear smuggling. We will continue to play an active role within the Contact Group, and look forward to working closely with Hungary as the incoming Convener. We strongly encourage other IAEA Member States to consider joining the Group to further advance our shared effort to strengthen nuclear security worldwide.

Madam President,

In the area of **nuclear safety**, which is essential to responsible nuclear cooperation, we would like to applaud the Agency for its continuous efforts to help Member States maintain and improve their national standards of nuclear safety. We are encouraged with the successful conclusion of the Seventh Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety led by Mr. Ramzi Jammal of Canada's nuclear regulatory authority. Canada continues to emphasize the importance for Member States becoming Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

We strongly endorse the principles of openness and transparency in nuclear safety and encourage all Member States to host international peer reviews and to make

those results, as well as National Reports under the Convention on Nuclear Safety, public. Canada continues to contribute substantially to international nuclear safety by leading, participating and hosting IAEA review missions, and encourage others to do the same. We are finalizing preparations to host an Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) and an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) missions on waste management next year, marking 10 years since the last IRRS mission in Canada.

In closing, Madam President, please allow me to reaffirm Canada's continued and strong commitment to support the work of the IAEA and our conviction in the important role the Agency plays in support of international peace and security, while it continues to effectively advance the many benefits of nuclear energy, particularly to address today's climate and development challenges. Indeed, the IAEA plays a vital role in advancing some of the key objectives of the NPT, namely on nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses and we are grateful for the Secretariat's expert contribution to those important efforts. Rest assured of Canada's fullest support to the Agency in the implementation of the NPT and in enhancing our collective efforts to promote nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

Thank you, Madam President.