

62nd IAEA General Conference

17 - 21 September 2018

Statement by Denmark

As delivered by Ambassador René Dinesen, Permanent Representative

Mr. President

Congratulations on your election as President of the General Conference, you can count on our support. I am also pleased to see a woman being elected as president for the second year running. We consider this as a sign of the increasing impact of the work we collectively do to enhance the role of women in the nuclear field.

Denmark associates itself with the EU statement delivered earlier yesterday.

Mr. President

For Denmark, international rules-based order and cooperation are essential. For this, we need strong, effective and efficient multilateral organisations. We consider the IAEA a prime example of this and strongly support the Agency's work across the spectrum of its mandate.

The IAEA plays a decisive role in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. We fully support the IAEA safeguards system, including the implementation of State-level Safeguard Approaches. We are pleased that a broader conclusion has now been drawn for Greenland, and the Danish and Greenlandic governments were happy to invite the IAEA to conduct additional verification activities in Greenland last month. We commend to others the instrument of inviting IAEA verification as a proactive way to enhance confidence.

Earlier this year, my government made a voluntary contribution to the IAEA's DPRK Team. We hope that recent positive developments surrounding the Korean Peninsula may mean that prospects are improving for the IAEA to play an essential verification role in the DPRK. Meanwhile, we repeat our strong call for the DPRK to abandon its nuclear programme, live up to all its international obligations and commitments and take tangible steps to attain complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation. Until the DPRK takes such tangible and verifiable actions, we will continue strict enforcement of existing sanctions.

Denmark continues fully to support the Agency's verification and monitoring of Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. This thorough monitoring and verification system ensures Iran cannot develop nuclear weapons, and we underline the need for sustained, strict, and full compliance by Iran. This includes providing the IAEA with access to all sites the Agency deems necessary. Denmark finds it important that Member States are provided with sufficient and regular information on Iran's implementation of all nuclear-related commitments and, as necessary, any other safeguards relevant information available to the Agency. The Director General has our full support in this matter.

The integrity of the IAEA safeguards system is vital. It is essential to uphold the NPT-based regime. Any cases of non-compliance need to be rectified to preserve the integrity of the system. This also applies to the Syrian case of Dair Alzour.

Returning to Greenland, I want to acknowledge the excellent cooperation and assistance, which the IAEA is continuing to provide to the Kingdom of Denmark as we prepare for possible uranium extraction. The Danish and Greenlandic governments are determined jointly to ensure that any uranium extraction in Greenland is fully in line with the highest international standards, most notably the IAEA's.

Mr. President

We look to the Agency to provide standards and guidance on nuclear safety and security including for new technologies such as transportable nuclear power plants. We look forward to being kept informed of the Secretariat's work in that regard. Development of technologies call for development of safety and security accordingly. Any accident or incident can have cross-border effects and thus we all have a clear interest in promoting nuclear safety and nuclear security worldwide as well as transparency about cross-border impacts. Furthermore, high standards of safety and security are crucial in laying the grounds for responsible peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. As such, all pillars of the IAEA need to be applied in an integrated manner and a "one-house" approach should be taken.

Denmark is a significant contributor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund and was pleased to make an additional, non-earmarked contribution last December. At the same time, we are concerned by the heavy reliance of nuclear security work on voluntary contributions and call for adequate resources being made available from the regular budget.

We warmly welcomed the entry-into-force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 2016. As we prepare for the Review Conference to take place in 2021, we should ensure that this will be an opportunity to identify, assess and address any gaps in the international nuclear security architecture, given that threats and technologies continue to evolve.

Mr. President

Denmark has made the decision not to include nuclear power in our own energy mix, as we base our national long-term energy production plans on more sustainable forms of energy, notably wind power. We respect, however, the choice of other Member States and the Agency's statutory obligations.

At the same time, we believe that nuclear technology can make a significant contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and fully support the IAEA's technical cooperation work in such crucial areas as human health, food security, water and the environment. We have been pleased to pledge our full share of the TCF target for 2019. In a world of rapid technological development, we want to contribute to the IAEA's capacity to make the peaceful uses of nuclear technology available to foster development and growth.

Mr. President

In closing let me thank most sincerely the Director General and his dedicated staff for their invaluable contribution to building a safer and more prosperous world. We will continue our cooperation with them and with other Member States to advance the mandate of the IAEA.

Thank you, Mr. President