

# Statement

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## **【Introduction】**

President, Madam Marta ZIAKOVA,  
Deputy Director General, Madam Mary Alice Hayward,  
Distinguished delegates!

First, on behalf of the Korean government, I would like to congratulate you, President Madam Marta ZIAKOVA, on your election.

## **【Energy Transition Policy】**

Madam President,

Globally, the energy industry is shifting to respond to climate change. There is the decrease in the use of fossil fuels and the increase of the use of sustainable energy sources.

In keeping with this global trend, Korea's energy paradigm has also changed. Balanced development of nuclear and renewable energy is encouraged. The safety of the people must come first and foremost.

For this, Korea is pursuing an energy transition policy that will scale down the relative proportion of nuclear power gradually over the next 60 years. At the same time, we will expand the use of renewable energy.

In spite of this, four more nuclear power plants are planned to be constructed by 2023 so that its number and amount will be expanded. It leads to maintaining competitiveness of our nuclear industry.

## **【 1. Future Nuclear Energy Development Strategy 】**

Let me introduce first the future nuclear energy development strategy of Korea. In line with the Energy Transition Policy, The Korean government, the Ministry of Science & ICT, announced it last year to reinforce comprehensive capability of nuclear technology.

The main point of this strategy is shifted from the previous nuclear power development to research on safety and decommissioning, expanded use of radiation fusion technology, and support for nuclear technology exports.

Madam President,

Korea is enhancing safety and decommissioning technologies to secure the safety of nuclear power plants in operation.

Furthermore, we are putting an emphasis on more environment-friendly and safer management of radioactive waste through technology development for spent fuel.

In terms of safety and regulation, Korea is working to meet the strengthened safety standards set by the IAEA. This will establish a regulation system that the people can trust.

Madam President,

We contributed 1 million dollars to the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) last year.

We hosted successfully the National RCA Representatives Meeting and IAEA Human Resource Development (HRD) Conference this year.

In addition, we plan to hold the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) Annual Meeting in November.

## **【 2. Expanding overseas exports of nuclear program 】**

Madam President,

Secondly, I would like to explain Korea's effort to expand overseas export of nuclear program.

Korea has a wide range of technologies for research reactors and its fuel that can meet both domestic and international needs.

In addition, we have a SMART reactor, with improved safety, that are well-suited to the small power grid and seawater desalination.

We have outstanding nuclear power plant technology with strong supply chains based on accumulated experience in construction and operation.

Korea has been supplying the international community with technologies for reactors.

We will continue to share our experiences and technology in cooperation with the IAEA and the Member States.

## **【 3. North Korea's Nuclear Issue 】**

Madam President,

Finally, let me comment on North Korea's nuclear issue.

North Korea's Chairman Kim Jong-un stated that North Korea will participate in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and that North Korea was open to dialogue in his new year'.

Since the Olympic Games and following inter-Korean summit, the door to dialogue has been opened on the Korean Peninsula.

Two consecutive historic inter-Korean summits and the first-ever summit between the US and the DPRK have been successfully carried out.

In the summits, the DPRK has made commitments to 'complete denuclearization' as stated in the Panmunjeom Declaration and the US-DPRK Joint Statement.

In addition, the third inter-Korean summit of the year will be taking place in Pyongyang from tomorrow. The two leaders of Korea will discuss ways to establish permanent peace and co-prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and, in particular, practical measures to realize denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.

We will continue to work with the international community to achieve complete denuclearization and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The Republic of Korea appreciates the IAEA's timely efforts to enhance its readiness to verify the DPRK's nuclear program, following the recent developments on the Korean Peninsula.

### **【 Closing 】**

Madam President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Those of us gathered here have made endless efforts towards the goals of increasing peaceful uses of nuclear energy and maintaining nonproliferation regime.

IAEA has been at the core of these efforts and exceptional in its role.

As a member state of the IAEA, Korea will continue to spare no effort in supporting the IAEA in the future.

Thank you for listening.