

STATEMENT

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

delivered by Mr Andrzej Przybycin

Chairman of the National Atomic Energy Agency

to the 62. General Conference

of International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, 18th September 2018

Madam President,

On behalf of Polish Government, I congratulate you on your election as President of the sixty-second session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. You have the assurance of my full support and close cooperation of delegation of Poland to achieve common success of the General Conference.

Let me warmly welcome Grenada as a new member of the Agency.

The Polish delegation fully shares the comments made by the distinguished representative of Austria on behalf of Member States of the European Union.

Madam President,

The continuous contribution of IAEA to global development through peaceful uses of nuclear energy cannot be emphasized enough. The Agency makes real efforts to ensure that civil nuclear applications remains a safe and clean energy, and that Member States are complying with their safeguards obligations. Poland as Member State will continue to support the Director General and Agency Secretariat in fulfilling its mission.

Madam President,

Poland is a country facing dynamic development in the last three decades, still with a long way to go. In the strive for sustainable development and prosperity of the people, we find important and beneficial to use various mechanisms of support and expertise offered by the Agency.

We use extensively safety standards as inspiration to strengthen national legal and regulatory framework for protection of people and environment. Polish experts participate in all safety standards committees to support the effort to develop and update the system of international standards for radiation and nuclear safety and security.

Poland continuously improve its national framework through use of Agency peer-review missions. In the past year Poland invited and hosted 2 important missions:

- ARTEMIS to strengthen management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel,
- and INSARR follow-up mission to support safe operation of our Research Reactor Maria.

In our experience, especially after completing a cycle of IRRS missions in 2013 and follow-up in 2017, the findings of peer-review missions are crucial incentives for continuous improvement of nuclear safety and radiation protection framework of Poland. I am confident that use of the peer-review mechanisms by all Member State is proven and effective way to support national governments in safe and peaceful development of nuclear energy applications.

Technical Cooperation Programme is another pillar of Agency's efforts to support Member States. Poland is firm contributor to the TC Programme and we make full contributions every year. We also offer our country services to host several IAEA technical meetings and workshops as well as we eagerly receive fellowships to Poland from many Member States worldwide.

While providing support to TC Programme, Poland also finds the Agency technical cooperation as an important input to national development activities. Participation in Technical Cooperation projects, both regional and national, is recognized by many Polish organizations and institutes as effective help in development of nuclear applications in the country.

Madam President,

Government of Poland decided in 2009 to explore the nuclear power option as part of national development strategy. In 2014 our Government approved Polish Nuclear Power Programme with a goal to build first Polish Nuclear Power Plant. At present, the Government activity focus on update of the Programme and a new financing model for the nuclear power project. We understand that introduction of nuclear power is a long-term investment and require proper infrastructure to be prepared. Polish Government and national regulatory authority continue to cooperate with Agency Secretariat to assure that the nuclear power programme to be implemented in Poland will be at the same time safe and beneficial for Polish society and environment.

Madam President,

It is important that IAEA remains a place to foster cooperation among Member States. I want to thank Agency Secretariat for providing assistance to Regulatory Cooperation Forum, which is perfect example of initiative driven by Member States and supported by IAEA. Poland as well as other countries embarking on nuclear power, benefits from possibility to work within RCF platform together with countries having large and long experience of regulation and oversight of nuclear power programmes.

Madam President,

On behalf of the Polish Government, I want to underline that Poland will always cooperate, support and provide all possible assistance to the International Atomic Energy Agency and all Member States.

Let me conclude by expressing my country's appreciation to the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Amano, for his impressive, challenging work and dedication to duty.

Thank you.