

SWEDEN

Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Mikaela Kumlin Granit

International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

62nd session

2018

Vienna

Thank you, Madame President,

Allow me first to congratulate you on the election as President of the 62nd General Conference and begin by reiterating Sweden's full support to the Agency.

Let me also wish DG Amano a speedy recovery and I hope he can return to Vienna soon.

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by Austria on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to make the following national remarks.

As a long-standing supporter of the IAEA, Sweden is looking forward to a new 3-year term on the IAEA Board of Governors. In these challenging times, the role of the Agency becomes even more important for global peace and security.

Madame President,

By ensuring that NPT States Parties are following their obligations, the strengthened IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The Additional Protocol is an indispensable tool for IAEA safeguards, and has, together with the comprehensive safeguards

agreement become the current verification standard pursuant to article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

However, universalization must remain a top priority. Sweden welcomes that Thailand and Honduras during the last year have joined the large group of Member States – 132 in total – applying the Additional Protocol.

We call on those Member States that have not yet done so to bring into force their NPT safeguards agreements and additional protocols without delay and to ensure that their Small Quantities Protocols are in accordance with the current standard. Member States must provide the necessary support so that the Agency can carry out its task of verifying the correctness and completeness of the Member States' declarations. For the efficient and effective use of resources for safeguards verification, we underline the importance for the Agency to retain its staff competence.

We welcome the IAEA's efforts to apply the State-Level Concept to all Member States with a safeguards agreement in force, as part of the continuing evolution of the global safeguards implementation. Furthermore, we note that the Board, through its approval of safeguards agreements, delegates authority to the Director General to implement those agreements and that State

Level Approaches are internal documents designed and developed to translate that authority into action.

Madame President,

The DPRK remains an issue of significant concern. At the same time, we welcome diplomatic developments in recent months. This window of opportunity needs to be fully exploited, by combining a policy of upholding sanctions with a readiness to support diplomatic efforts, as determined by the Security Council in its resolutions. A fundamental precondition, however, remains: the need for DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons and missiles programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. DPRK should formalize its commitments towards denuclearization. To this end, we call on the DPRK to promptly resume cooperation with the Agency in the complete and effective implementation of the Agency's comprehensive safeguards.

The IAEA should play a key role in any future verification effort in DPRK. I am pleased to announce that Sweden pledges 3 million Swedish crowns to the IAEA DPRK Trust Fund in support of the Agency strengthening readiness to resume its verification work in the DPRK.

Madame President,

As we are all too aware, the Iran nuclear deal – the JCPOA – faces profound challenges. Sweden remains a steadfast supporter of the agreement. Its disintegration would be seriously detrimental, including for the global non-proliferation regime. In this context, Sweden, and the EU, deeply regrets the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA.

We reiterate our strong support for the IAEA's verification pursuant to the agreement. The implementation of the JCPOA will continue to enhance dialogue with Iran and serves to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This year, Sweden will make an additional extra-budgetary contribution of 3 million Swedish crowns to this end. We underline the importance of Iran's early ratification of the Additional Protocol as a crucial confidence-building measure.

Madame President,

As mentioned last year Sweden has taken yet another step towards a governmental licensing decision on the construction of a repository for spent nuclear fuel. The Land and Environmental Court and the Radiation Safety Authority handed over their statements on Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company's (SKB) applications to the Government in January this year. They have identified uncertainties remaining, especially

regarding the copper canister. The Governmental process leading up to the final decision regarding the application has started and the Government in June asked SKB to complete its applications in several areas. SKB's answer is expected by the end of April 2019 after which the Governmental process will continue.

Sweden is currently conducting a thorough update of the legal framework regarding the nuclear program. The Radiation Protection Act was recently updated and there is an ongoing review of the Act on Nuclear Activities, considering changes in the European legislation. New regulations from the regulator, that are to be finalized next year, has been drafted in a whole new structure. The strategic goal with the new structure is to ensure that the licensee will get a better overview of relevant regulations regarding nuclear safety, nuclear security and radiation protection. This is done by fully integrate this perspectives in the new structure; Construction, Operation and Analysis. Sweden takes an active part in the European work to further enhance nuclear safety. The most important investment in nuclear safety and security is the decision implement bunkered independent core cooling system in all nuclear reactors that operates after 2020. This demonstrates Sweden's commitment to develop Nuclear safety and security.

Madame President,

Development of safety culture as a part of the proactive measures taken to prevent incidents is vital. This year the Swedish regulator has taken the development of safety culture understanding one step further. The Swedish Regulator has in a joint OECD/NEA – WANO initiative explored the impact of national culture attribute into safety culture in the nuclear program of Sweden. The outcome of this Safety culture forum was presented at a side event during this General Conference.

Madame President,

Sweden strongly believes that peer review mechanisms contribute to further strengthening nuclear safety and security as well as building confidence. The Swedish regulator has over the last years participated in several IRRS and advisory missions around the world. We believe it is of great importance that we share and learn from other countries. To further support the IAEA with resources and skills the Swedish regulator in the beginning of this year invited IAEA to hold an IRRS training course for the Nordic countries. We are pleased to contribute with additional 20 staff members which can participate in IRRS and advisory missions.

We highly appreciate the work of IAEA regarding advisory missions in which safety and security are integrated.

Madame President,

Nuclear science and technology, transmitted through the IAEA, has a significant role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sweden supports the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme which contributes to such diverse fields as human health, food security and water management. This year we have provided 3 million Swedish crowns in voluntary contributions to the Peaceful Uses Initiative, in support of water resource management in the Sahel, ocean acidification and tackling marine plastics. The success of TC-projects is greatly enhanced if perspectives and needs of project stakeholders, including women, are taken into consideration. Performance indicators are useful tools for the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

Technical cooperation is also an important element when fostering nuclear safety and security. Here, I wish to mention our long-standing cooperation with Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine in both nuclear safety and security.

Madame President,

Sweden attaches great importance to gender equality at the IAEA secretariat as well as gender mainstreaming in the Agency's

programs and activities. We believe that the full and equal participation of men and women, including at the highest levels, remains essential and will benefit the Agency and its Member States. In this regard, we very much welcome DG Amano's goal to achieve gender parity among senior officials by 2021.

I thank you Madame President.