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Statement by

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Madam President,

The Swiss delegation congratulates you sincerely on your election as President of this year's General Conference and wishes to assure you of its full support for your mandate. We also wish to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for the high quality of their work.

Madam President,

Switzerland welcomes the current activities of the IAEA relating to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We regard the JCPOA as a key element of the global non-proliferation regime. The latest report by the Director General confirms that Iran is fully complying with the multilateral obligations of the JCPOA. While some of its provisions are temporary in nature, no time limit applies with respect to the establishment of the highest verification standards in the form of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and an Additional Protocol. As we have noted on a number of occasions, Switzerland is concerned about the possible consequences of the decision by the United States of America to withdraw from the JCPOA. We encourage all remaining parties to continue to fulfill all their obligations within the framework of the JCPOA.

Switzerland has also been closely monitoring the developments that have taken place on the Korean Peninsula over the past few months. The dialogue that has been initiated between all involved parties offers an opportunity to bring about a complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, which would be greatly welcomed. In Switzerland's view, such an undertaking can only succeed if the various available multilateral mechanisms are used. Switzerland therefore hopes that the IAEA and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) will have an active part in this process.

Madam President,

The Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention) confirmed that Switzerland is duly meeting its obligations. In Switzerland's view, international review meetings of this kind are an important instrument and we therefore call on other countries to become Contracting Parties to this Joint Convention.

Switzerland remains committed to promoting the worldwide implementation of the principles of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety (VDNS), which was unanimously adopted in 2015 by all Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, as well as to ensuring that the principles are taken into account in the corresponding resolutions and relevant documents of the IAEA relating to nuclear safety. In this context, it is of particular importance for Switzerland that the safety objective defined in the 2nd principle of the Vienna Declaration is reflected in the IAEA Safety Standards. Switzerland intends to also continue to call for a worldwide technical exchange regarding reasonably practicable safety improvements for existing nuclear facilities.

The continuous improvement of nuclear safety is a process that has to be carried out at both the national and the international level. At the international level a culture needs to be fostered that advocates greater nuclear safety. Here the IAEA should undertake a stronger commitment in the future at the technical, regulatory and political levels. Switzerland will continue to call for the spread of such a culture.

Madam President,

Switzerland welcomes the activities of the IAEA aimed at the further development of nuclear security and in assuming the role of global coordinator in this area. We intend to support a general strengthening of the IAEA in this context. Switzerland will continue to promote the comprehensive security of all nuclear material, regardless of its designated use for civilian or non-civilian purposes.

The first review meeting on the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which Switzerland ratified in 2008, is to be held in 2021. In order to allow sufficient time for preparatory meetings, Switzerland calls on the IAEA to initiate consultations with the States Parties as soon as possible so that the necessary preparatory work can commence in good time.

Switzerland regards the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions as an important instrument. An IPPAS mission was carried out in May this year at Switzerland's invitation, at which the international team of experts formulated valuable proposals and recommendations.

Madam President,

The State Level Concept (SLC) was introduced up a few years ago. Switzerland welcomes the objectives of this concept to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA's verification tasks by adapting the verification measures to the specific circumstances of each country within certain limits and focusing more on critical points. The latest report by the IAEA on the state level approach shows that it is too early to make a conclusive assessment and that the declared objectives have not yet been achieved. Switzerland will therefore remain committed to advocating the optimisation of the safeguards system so that the limited resources can be deployed where they can yield the best outcome.

Madam President,

The renovation of the Seibersdorf Laboratories within the scope of the ReNuAL (Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories) programme is of the utmost importance for both the IAEA and its member states. Nuclear science and technology can make a valuable contribution towards sustainable development. The IAEA is currently constructing a linear accelerator (linac) facility for its medical dosimetry laboratory. In order for the IAEA to support its member states with the quality assurance of radiation therapy through the linac facility, Switzerland has contributed significant financial resources towards this project. We look forward to the inauguration

of the linac facility during the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology to be held in November 2018.

Madam President,

Switzerland has a fundamental interest in a well-resourced IAEA that is able to effectively fulfill all its tasks. This means that the Agency has to be provided with adequate financial resources. We welcome that the negotiations have led to a decision to draw up a new method for price adjustment. This is particularly important as with the existing method it is not possible to reliably estimate the expected price development. In the past, this has resulted in significant increases in each second budget year. We therefore hope that the new method for calculating the price adjustment will offer a higher degree of reliability and predictability.

Madam President,

Switzerland is concerned about the results of the audit report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) as regards the independence of the OIOS and the evaluation of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). This programme can make a valuable contribution towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in the healthcare sector, and namely in addressing the treatment options for cancer in member states with low and medium income levels. Here, too, Switzerland has a great interest in ensuring that the potential of PACT can be fully exploited in cooperation with external partners and that the necessary financial resources are utilised efficiently. Thus the efficient integration of the programme and its level of acceptance within the IAEA are essential in order for it to be rendered fully effective. We wish to thank the task force established by the Director General for the work it has carried out to date aimed at reorienting PACT, and we look forward with a great deal of interest to the conclusion of its work.

To conclude, I would like to note that, with reference to the implementation of Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050, the nuclear research activities at our universities and the Paul Scherrer Institute will be carried out at the same level as in the past few

years, as will our active participation in international research projects such as GEN-IV, ITER, etc. For Switzerland, retaining its nuclear expertise will continue to be of great importance in the future.

Thank you for your kind attention.