



63rd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference

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Australian National Statement

Ambassador Brendon Hammer

Governor and Resident Representative of Australia to the IAEA

Madam President

- As a founding member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Australia strongly supports the Agency's essential role
 - in facilitating collaboration to harness the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology
 - while safeguarding against nuclear weapons proliferation.

Madam President

- In the area of safeguards, the Agency's ability to undertake verification and monitoring activities in Iran are fundamental to Australia's support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.
 - This is a peacefully negotiated agreement Australia believes serves the best interests of the international community.

- In this connection we note that the Agency continues to seek full and timely cooperation from Iran in relation to implementation of Iran's Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol
 - but that recently there have been some worrying setbacks in this area.
- Australia also notes – with deep concern – Iran's actions through 2019 to wind back its compliance with the JCPOA.
- We urge Iran to reverse these actions – to urgently to return to full compliance with the Plan.
 - and to refrain from any further actions that might jeopardise the JCPOA, or escalate international tensions.

Madam President

- Australia joins others in seeking permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, including through the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the DPRK.
- The DPRK's ongoing development of nuclear weapons is a violation of UN Security Council Resolutions
 - and presents an unacceptable challenge to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.
- We condemn it.

- We also condemn the DPRK's recent repeated missile launches
 - these have done nothing for peace and stability
 - they increase the risk of miscalculation
 - and they are also in clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

- Australia urges the DPRK in the strongest terms:
 - to return to full compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
 - to permit an early return to IAEA safeguards inspections
 - to comply fully with all UN Security Council resolutions regarding its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs
 - and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

- Australia will maintain strong sanctions against the DPRK until it takes clear and verifiable steps to denuclearise – we call on other countries to do so too.

Madam President

- Australia welcomes the IAEA's work to further strengthen and integrate efficiencies into the global safeguards system.

- We congratulate the IAEA on holding a successful *Symposium on International Safeguards* in November 2018.

- And we thank the Agency for its ongoing strong participation in – and support for – the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network.
- Australia also strongly supports the IAEA’s Technical Cooperation Program.
- We congratulate the Agency for successfully hosting the first *IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology* last year.
- As a world-leading supplier of reactor-produced nuclear medicines, Australia has an acute understanding of the importance of nuclear science and technology in improving human health and well-being
 - for example, once Australia’s new nuclear medicine processing facility enters full operation we will reliably be able to meet up to 25 percent global demand for molybdenum-99.

Madam President

- Australia is proud of its excellent nuclear safety and security record.
- We were the first supplier to produce molybdenum-99 exclusively from low enriched uranium.

- Now – together with other major producers – we have eliminated HEU from around 75 percent of the world’s molybdenum-99 supply chain
 - proving this approach is technically and commercially feasible.
- Accordingly, we urge all Member States in the process of converting their HEU-based methods to stay the course and eliminate an unnecessary nuclear proliferation and security risk.

Madam President

- Australia is pleased to announce that construction of the world’s first industrial-scale Synroc waste treatment plant has begun.
- This Australian-developed waste management technology is designed to:
 - immobilise radioactive waste, minimise volume and provide an extremely durable and safe solution for final storage.
- We are very happy to talk to interested parties about the unique benefits and wide applications of this technology.

Madam President

- Australia is committed to best practice in nuclear safety.
- In this connection we hosted our second full-scope Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission in November 2018.

- This was the largest multi-jurisdictional IRRS mission ever undertaken.
- We appreciate the services the Agency provides for States to enhance their nuclear safety and security regimes, and we commend these services to all Member States.

Madam President

- Australia looks forward to the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference
 - noting that the approaching 50th anniversary of the NPT gives us pause to reflect on the enduring significance of the Treaty to global peace and security.
- We wish to restate our view here that we believe all NPT Parties have an obligation – and core national security imperative – to work cooperatively to ensure a positive, forward-looking outcome from the Review Conference.

Madam President

- I would like to emphasise Australia's strong support and commendation of the Agency's efforts to increase representation of women in the IAEA – and to increase the role of women in the wider nuclear sector.
- As Co-Chair of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear, Australia very much welcomed the late Director General Amano's focus on achieving gender equality at the IAEA.

- Mr Amano's proactive and pathfinding approach on gender will form an important part of his wider legacy.
- And in closing Madam President, I would indeed like to acknowledge the late Director General's wider legacy of tirelessly championing the peaceful uses of nuclear technology
 - in particular for development
 - and for many years guiding the Agency through a difficult and sensitive international security environment.
- Australia will remember Yukiya Amano for these things, and for the many other areas where he excelled.

Thank you