

63rd IAEA General Conference

16 - 20 September 2019

Statement by Denmark

As delivered by Ambassador René Dinesen, Permanent Representative

Madam President

Denmark associates itself with the EU statement delivered earlier this week.

Congratulations on your election as President of the General Conference. As a Gender Champion and member of Friends of Women in Nuclear, I welcome the election of a woman as president. The fact that this is the third year running is an encouraging symbol of the increasing impact of the work we collectively do to enhance the role of women in the nuclear field.

Madam President

Let me take this opportunity to express our deep sadness about the death of Director General Amano. He was a committed and effective leader of the Agency and we will miss him greatly. My delegation and my government are grateful for all the cooperation and assistance rendered to the Kingdom of Denmark under his leadership. DG Amano leaves behind the IAEA as a prime example of the strong, effective and efficient multilateral organisations we need in order to preserve and promote a rules-based international order and cooperation. We are convinced that the IAEA will remain such an organisation and we strongly support the Agency's work across the spectrum of its mandate.

Madam President

The IAEA plays a decisive role in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. We fully support the IAEA safeguards system, including the continued development and implementation of State-level Safeguards Approaches.

The JCPoA is a landmark non-proliferation achievement, and Denmark remains committed to the agreement. Denmark continues strongly to support the Agency's verification and monitoring of Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. This thorough monitoring and verification system ensures Iran cannot develop nuclear weapons, and we underline the need for sustained and full compliance by Iran. Denmark finds it deeply concerning that Iran has exceeded the stockpile limits of uranium enriched up to 3.67% set by the JCPoA, and is enriching uranium beyond the levels allowed in the Agreement. Furthermore, we are concerned about Iran's expansion of its centrifuge research and development activities announced on September 6 and confirmed by the IAEA on September 8. We urge Iran to reverse these steps and return to full compliance with the JCPoA. Denmark finds it important that Member States are provided with sufficient and regular information on Iran's implementation of all nuclear-related commitments and, as necessary, any other safeguards relevant information available to the Agency. The IAEA has our full support in this matter and

we call on Iran to respond promptly to the IAEA's questions related to the completeness of Iran's safeguards declarations.

Turning to the DPRK, we follow the current developments surrounding the Korean Peninsula with interest. We remain hopeful that they may, in due course, allow the IAEA to take on its verification role in the DPRK. Meanwhile, we repeat our strong call for the DPRK to abandon its nuclear programme, live up to all its international obligations and commitments and take tangible steps to attain complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation. Until the DPRK takes such tangible and verifiable actions, we will continue strict enforcement of existing sanctions.

The integrity of the IAEA safeguards system is vital. It is essential to uphold the NPT-based regime. Any cases of non-compliance need to be rectified to preserve the integrity of the system. This also applies to the Syrian case of Dair Alzour.

Madam President

I want to acknowledge the excellent cooperation and assistance, which the IAEA is continuing to provide to the Kingdom of Denmark as we prepare for possible uranium extraction in Greenland. The Danish and Greenlandic governments are determined jointly to ensure that any uranium extraction in Greenland is fully in line with the highest international standards, most notably the IAEA's. This applies to the safeguards area as well as to safety and security.

Madam President

We look to the Agency to provide standards and guidance on nuclear safety and security, including for new technologies such as transportable nuclear power plants. Development of technologies must call for development of safety and security accordingly. Any accident or incident will most likely have cross-border effects and thus we all have a clear interest in developing and promoting nuclear safety and nuclear security worldwide as well as an interest in improved transparency about cross-border impacts. Furthermore, high standards of safety and security are crucial in laying the grounds for responsible peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. As such, all pillars of the IAEA need to work in an integrated and coordinated manner.

We look forward to receiving IRRS and ARTEMIS peer review missions next year and consider these missions an important contribution to maintaining nuclear safety and security in Denmark.

Denmark is a significant contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund in recognition of the need to provide the IAEA with the means to assist Member States in improving national nuclear security. At the same time, we are concerned by the heavy reliance of the Agency's nuclear security work on voluntary contributions and call for adequate resources being made available from the regular budget.

We look forward to the Conference to review the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 2021. We should ensure that this is an opportunity to identify, assess and address any gaps in the international nuclear security architecture, given that threats and technologies continue to evolve. Equally, we look forward to the International Conference on

Nuclear Security next year and are committed to contributing to the development of an ambitious and forward-looking Ministerial Declaration underlining the central role of the IAEA.

Madam President

Denmark has made the decision not to include nuclear power in our own energy mix, as we base our national long-term energy production plans on more sustainable forms of energy, notably wind power. We respect, however, the choice of other Member States and the Agency's statutory obligations.

At the same time, we believe that nuclear technology can make a significant contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and fully support the IAEA's technical cooperation work in such crucial areas as human health, food security, water and the environment. We have been pleased to pledge our full share of the TCF target for 2020. In a world of rapid technological development, we want to contribute to the IAEA's capacity to make the peaceful uses of nuclear technology available to foster development and growth.

Madam President

In closing let me thank the acting Director General and the dedicated staff of the IAEA for their invaluable contribution to building a safer and more prosperous world. We will continue our cooperation with them and with other Member States to advance the mandate of the IAEA.

Thank you, Madam President