

# STATEMENT

By

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Madame President, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madame Ambassador, on presiding over this session of the IAEA General Conference. I have no doubt that under your leadership, the discussions in this forum will be fruitful and meaningful.

Israel joins the international community and IAEA Member States in mourning the recent loss of IAEA Director General, Yukiya Amano. Director General Amano led the Agency during a time of great change, innovation and development. His efforts will continue to influence the Agency's work in achieving its goals.

Today, more than ever, we must strive to maintain the independence, integrity and professional nature of the Agency. Israel has no doubt that these values will assist the Agency in performing its duties in the future.

Madame President,

Israel supports the essential role of the IAEA in the verification and monitoring of Member States' nuclear commitments. It is the view of the State of Israel that IAEA safeguards are a fundamental and essential component of the architecture of nuclear nonproliferation.

Madame President,

The Agency is currently facing significant challenges; these challenges cannot be addressed, and IAEA goals cannot be attained, while the Agency is burdened with constant lies, misleading statements and intentional delays by certain Member States. Specifically, it is Iran, which consistently and violently attempts to shift the focus of this forum with the goal of distracting the Agency and impeding its important work.

Madame President,

Israel has full confidence in the professional technical capabilities of the IAEA in monitoring and verifying nuclear-related activities in Iran. Nonetheless, Iran's methods of deception and concealment in the nuclear realm emphasize the need for greater vigilance and support of the IAEA in its important activities.

Iran's threats to enhance its nuclear program are a blatant attempt to extort the international community. This, and recent revelations of Iranian undeclared activities, require a clear and collective message to be sent to Iran - the world will not accept Iran's continued reprehensible conduct in the nuclear realm.

Madame President,

The information revealed by Israel in the nuclear archive clearly proves that Iran continued its activities related to the development of a military nuclear weapons program. These activities included the protection, preservation and massive concealment of capabilities, information, undeclared activities and nuclear materials. These are not activities which indicate a civilian nuclear program. These activities clearly indicate that a nuclear weapons program existed, is being maintained, and can be restored in the future. The JCPOA cannot and will not prevent this.

Iran continues to deceive the international community, while failing to provide clear and honest information regarding its nuclear program, as part of its CSA and safeguards commitments.

Madame President,

Iran's active attempts to conceal and remove nuclear materials and equipment from its clandestine sites, undermine the Agency's ability to conduct effective verification missions. These efforts cast a great shadow over any alleged Iranian credibility.

The international community cannot allow Iran to continue evading questions regarding its nuclear materials, equipment, capabilities and sites. Iran must provide the IAEA with information pertaining to the development of its nuclear weapons program, including access to all relevant information.

Madame President,

Iran's behavior has become more violent and aggressive than ever. An unwavering international stance against Iranian violations will serve as a clear message to the Iranian leadership, as well as to other violators in breach of their safeguards obligations.

One such violator is Syria. For 12 years, Syria has consistently refused to cooperate with the Agency and answer questions regarding the clandestine nuclear reactor built at Dair Alzour. Syria's undeclared nuclear reactor, and failure to provide relevant information, has been recognized by the IAEA as, "...non-compliance with its obligations under its Safeguards Agreement with the Agency...".

I remind the forum that these violations took place while Syria was a State Party to the NPT. Syria joined other states in the Middle East, namely Iran today, and Libya and Iraq in the past, in breaching their Treaty obligations and international commitments. The track record of these four states, and Iranian destabilizing activities in the region, should be taken into consideration when entering any discussion on nuclear nonproliferation.

Madame President,

The IAEA is faced with significant tasks and responsibilities. Nuclear safety and security are at the forefront of global concern. Significant strides are being made in the use of nuclear applications for food and agriculture, as well as in human health. However, more must be done to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Israel continues to support the IAEA in its efforts and programs, and hopes that continued attention will be given to these professional and technical issues, and not to the efforts to politicize the Agency and its agenda.

Madame President,

Israel regrets the continuous abuse and politicization of this forum by some Member States. The agenda item entitled, "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities," placed on the agenda each year, is politically driven, and contradicts the IAEA spirit. The continuous imposition of this issue on agenda of the General Conference is unfortunate and injurious to the Agency's credibility as a professional organization.

Madame President,

Israel has been a member of the Agency since its establishment in 1957. Israel commits its best human capital to its activities with the IAEA, and benefits from the expertise and knowledge possessed by the Agency.

Israel actively participates in, and contributes to, IAEA activities pertaining to nuclear safety and security, emergency preparedness, technical cooperation and many more. Unlike several of its neighbors in the region, Israel has always adhered to its obligations to the IAEA, and will continue to call for full compliance of all states to their commitments to the Agency.

Madame President,

I look forward to meaningful discussions in this forum, and to continuing Israel's fruitful relationship with the Agency.

I thank you, Madame President, for the opportunity to address this forum.