

Statement

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Head Delegate of the Republic of Korea
At the 63rd IAEA General Conference

[Opening Remarks]

I would like to congratulate Madam President on her election to serve as president at the 63rd General Conference of the IAEA.

I also offer sincere greetings to Acting Director General Cornel FERUTA and distinguished delegates.

And on behalf of the government of the Republic of Korea, I extend deep condolences on the passing away of the late Director General, Yukiya AMANO.

[Fukushima NPP Contaminated Water]

Madam President,

Article three of the IAEA Statute states that the Agency is authorized to establish or adopt standards of safety for protection of health and minimization of danger to life and property in order to keep the objective of the IAEA.

In accordance with this function, the IAEA, in cooperation with Japan, after the Fukushima accident, invested extensive efforts in safety management, especially by implementing the Vienna Declaration.

The Korean government highly appreciates these efforts.

However, issues concerning the disposal of Fukushima contaminated water still remain unanswered, escalating fear and anxiety throughout the world.

In the meantime, high-level Japanese government officials recently started to state that marine discharges are inevitable as a way to deal with Fukushima contaminated water.

In case when it is discharged into ocean, management of Fukushima contaminated water is no longer Japan's domestic problem but a grave international issue that can affect the whole global marine environment.

As the IAEA has been playing an active role, in cooperation with Japan, in dealing with the Fukushima accident, the same approach is needed for the disposal of Fukushima contaminated water.

It is necessary to carry out on-site investigations on the current status of the Fukushima plants and its contaminated water, as well as the impact on ecological system in objective and scientific ways.

Based on the findings, it is important to set up standards and methods for the disposal of Fukushima contaminated water.

This adheres to IAEA's radiation protection principles of justification and optimization.

They must not burden the future generation and be deemed safe by the international community.

What we need the most is that Japan should take substantive and transparent measures and actions.

This should be done for health, safety and environment protection.

[Denuclearization of North Korea and Safety Measures]

Madam President,

Korea fully supports the IAEA's objective of ensuring that nuclear power is not used for any military purpose, and urges that this same principle be applied to the North Korean nuclear issue.

On June 30th, this year, the leaders of North Korea and the U.S. held hands while standing on the Military Demarcation Line of the Korean Peninsula, and agreed on resuming talks between North Korea and the U.S.

The Korean government is making great efforts for complete denuclearization and the establishment of a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

We urge that North Korea demonstrate consistent effort and will toward denuclearization.

We also ask for full support for this cause from the IAEA, member states and the international community.

[Safety / Decommissioning]

Madam President,

To maximize safety for nuclear power plants that will be operated for more than sixty years in Korea, we established comprehensive plan to strengthen nuclear safety standards and take the lead in carrying out the IAEA's Vienna Declaration.

Korea also promotes nuclear safety innovation projects utilizing ICT technologies like big data, networking and artificial intelligence.

In response to the rising demand for nuclear decommissioning, we plan to actively acquire and develop related technologies.

We hope to seek close cooperation in this endeavor with the IAEA and member states.

[Korea's contribution to international society]

Madam President,

Korea's Advanced Power Reactor 1400 has international recognition by earning certification from the European Utility Requirements (EUR), followed by the US NRC's Design Certification.

We successfully completed the Pre-Project Engineering for SMART in partnership with Saudi Arabia and commercialization comes closer at hand.

Korea is dedicated to sharing our technology in reactor design, construction and management as well as our successful experiences in commercialization.

Madam President,

We make extrabudgetary contributions to the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) to help fund various cooperative projects including ReNuAL Plus and PACT.

In addition, our research reactor, HANARO, designated this year as an International Centre on Research Reactors (ICERR), and a new research reactor for RI supply will greatly contribute to its utilization.

[Closing remarks]

Madam President and delegates,

Our most immediate responsibility is to ensure that nuclear energy contributes to bringing peace and prosperity to mankind with safety.

For this, I ask all member states to work together for the protection of human lives and the environment and for the preservation of the non-proliferation regime.

Korea will also take the lead in these efforts, together with the IAEA and member states.

Thank you.