

Statement of Norway

Delivered by State Secretary (Deputy Minister) Mr Audun Halvorsen at the 63rd regular session of the IAEA General Conference

Mdm/Mr President

I congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference.

Let me first, on behalf of Norway, recognise the significant contributions by late Director General Yukiya Amano in enhancing the IAEA's efforts for international peace and security and in support of the peaceful use of nuclear technologies. We welcome the decision to name the Flexible Modular Laboratory at Seibersdorf as "The Yukiya Amano Laboratories".

Mdm/Mr President

Norway remains a staunch supporter of the way the Agency and the way in which it is carrying out its statutory functions. The IAEA plays a key role in the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Agency's system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We call for universal accession to the NPT. We call for all Member States to conclude Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the Agency, and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol.

We support the work to develop and implement State-level Safeguards Approaches, which the Director General is fully mandated to do by virtue of existing safeguards agreements.

Mdm/Mr President

Norway fully supports the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and remains deeply committed to Security Council Resolution 2231. We ask the Acting Director General to continue reporting on the Agency's monitoring and verification in Iran, and we call on Iran to cooperate fully and timely with the Agency.

The nuclear weapons program of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains an unacceptable violation of international law and obligations under the NPT. We welcome the IAEA's continued readiness to play a role in nuclear verification in the DPRK.

Mdm/Mr President

Norway recognises the inalienable right of all NPT States Parties to peaceful uses of nuclear technology, enabled by enforcing the highest standards of safeguards, safety and security.

Norway is fully committed to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme and a strong supporter of the Peaceful Uses Initiative. The Agency has an important role in the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Norway strongly supports the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) and the Joint Convention. We encourage all member states to fulfil their obligations and participate at the Eight Review Meeting of the CNS in 2020.

For a long time, Norway has assisted several member states to improve their safety framework and culture. We continue to cooperate on nuclear safety issues internationally, which benefits both the global safety regime as well as enhances our own national capabilities. We actively engage in international coordination fora like the IAEAs European and Central Asia Safety network.

Norway encourages all member states to carry out regular self-assessments and host Agency peer review missions. In June, we hosted an Integrated Regulatory Review Service. We welcome the Review's suggestions and recommendations to enhance nuclear and radiation safety in Norway.

Deployment of transportable nuclear power plants – TNPPs – demands our attention. The Agency must intensify its considerations of all aspects of the safety and security of such facilities. Norway is pleased that the Secretariat held a briefing on its work on TNPPs earlier this month. The scope and applicability of existing requirements and instruments need to be clarified and developed, including dialogue with the International Maritime Organization.

Norway's research reactors have now been closed. A new government agency will be overseeing the decommissioning process. During this process, we will consult international standards and experiences.

Mdm/Mr President

Nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation instruments are mutually reinforcing.

Norway commends the efforts of the IAEA to promote the universalisation of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material ahead of the 2021 Review Conference. We welcome the ongoing preparations for an International Conference on Nuclear Security next year, and call upon Member States to strive for a substantive ministerial statement.

Norway supports enhanced international cooperation to prevent the smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive materials. We encourage the Agency, together with relevant international organisations and initiatives, to assist member states in this regard.

For more than a decade, Norway has been engaged in efforts to minimise and eliminate stocks and the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU). In August, we presented our national report on current inventories of civilian HEU. We encourage other Member States to submit their national reports as called for in Information Circular 912.

Mdm/Mr President

As a member of the Group of Friends of Women in Nuclear, Norway is encouraged to learn that the Agency has achieved a 30 % share of women in the professional and higher staff category. We expect continued efforts in this regard.

Mdm/Mr President

A robust safety, security and safeguards regime is the enabler of peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology. It is vital that all core activities of the Agency continue to receive the necessary funding.

Thank You