

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts - Information for Delegations, 10–14 February 2020, Vienna, Austria

Statement by Denmark

As delivered by Ambassador René Dinesen, Permanent Representative

Co-Presidents

Let me begin by congratulating you on your role today and thanking you, your representatives, the IAEA Director General and IAEA Secretariat for all the work that has gone into this important Conference.

Denmark aligns itself with the statement delivered by Croatia on behalf of the European Union.

Co-Presidents

Denmark considers nuclear security in the Kingdom and worldwide to be key to our national security despite not operating any nuclear power plants. This is because nuclear security incidents have the strong potential to have cross-border implications and because, like in many other countries, nuclear and radioactive material is transported through Denmark, including by sea, on a regular basis, just as we use radiological sources, often for medical purposes.

Therefore, while we acknowledge that responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests with each of our states, we consider it equally important that we cooperate with each other, bilaterally, regionally and internationally, to ensure continuing success of worldwide efforts to prevent, detect and respond to the evolving nuclear security-related threats.

In Denmark's view, the IAEA is the central organisation providing a platform for such cooperation and for establishing and helping to implement an international regime for nuclear security. We highly value the work of the IAEA to coordinate international efforts and to improve nuclear security in Member States through guidance development, advisory services and capacity building. The IAEA is also ideally placed to help ensure that nuclear safety and nuclear security are mutually reinforcing. After all, both aim to protect human health, society and the environment. As such, nuclear safety and security are necessary enablers of continued peaceful use of nuclear and radiological material and technologies. In an IAEA forum, it is hardly controversial to say that these technologies have an important role to play in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

For these reasons, Denmark has been a steadfast and significant contributor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund since 2007. In making our contributions we aim for multi-year, non-earmarked

funding to allow the IAEA to make the best possible use of these resources. At the same time, we are concerned by the heavy reliance of the Agency's nuclear security work on voluntary contributions. We do not consider this funding model sustainable and therefore not adequate for such a core Agency task. We call on the Director General and Member States to take steps to ensure that adequate resources be made available from the regular budget.

Co-Presidents

Denmark makes use of various IAEA instruments in this field and encourages other Member States to continue doing so as well. Last October, the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the IAEA of Denmark's commitment to implement and act in accordance with the IAEA Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources. Denmark has also invited the IAEA to conduct an Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission this year, to be followed by an Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation Mission. I also wish to reiterate our gratitude to the IAEA for its support in connection with the preparations 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, including in the area of nuclear security.

Co-Presidents

As we look to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in just a few months' time, it is crucially important that the international community come together and identify all those areas where there is scope for progress and unity. Given the role that strong nuclear security can play to foster cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we are convinced that this Conference, and the IAEA's work on nuclear security more generally, can make a strong contribution in that regard.

Thank you, Co-Presidents