

Statement on behalf of
Hungary

delivered by

HE Mr. Károly Dán

Governor on the IAEA's Board of Governors, Resident
Representative to the IAEA

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International Atomic Energy Agency

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Mr President,

Congratulations on your election to preside over the IAEA General Conference – I can assure you of Hungary’s full support.

Let me start by commending the IAEA for carrying on its important work in spite of the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I also thank the Agency for providing assistance to Hungary in strengthening our national capacities for the rapid detection of the COVID-19 by RT–PCR¹, one of the most accurate laboratory detection methods.

We consistently argue that each and every country has the right to choose its energy mix, suitable for its own needs and capabilities. According to Hungary’s new Energy Strategy and National Energy and Climate Plan adopted this year, nuclear energy remains a key component of a cost-effective, climate-friendly, safe and stable energy mix that helps us to meet our environmental goals, including the very ambitious target of having 90% of our power generation become carbon-neutral by 2030.

Nuclear power plants clearly proved to be resilient, reliable and affordable sources of energy even in the extreme pandemic situation, There has been no delay in the construction of the two new power plant units of the Paks II. Project that are based on the highest international and IAEA standards. As a vital milestone in the construction process

¹ *real time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction*

the licensee of the Paks II. project submitted the construction licence application to the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority in June.

Meeting the maximum safety and security requirements in already existing nuclear facilities is also our top priority. Nuclear safety is ensured by comprehensive regulation and multi-tiered, complex supporting systems and operating mechanisms. Regarding nuclear security, Hungary believes that it is essential to maintain the central role of the Agency in this field and provide it with the required resources.

In line with the particular importance Hungary attaches to nuclear security, we continue to serve as the convener of the Nuclear Security Contact Group and we will also host the next Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Furthermore, later this year a Hungarian diplomat will co-chair the Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2021 Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM).

Even under these exceptional circumstances caused by the pandemic, Hungary attaches great importance to international cooperation and mutual experience sharing, also in the framework of the IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC). Implementation of the present and preparations for the next TC cycle must continue. Hungary is further committed to receive new IAEA missions in Hungary: the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) follow-up, Artemis and Technical

Safety Review (TSR) missions. We sincerely hope that these can be realised even under the current, challenging conditions.

Hungary supports the aim of the international community to ensure the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We are fully aware of the complexity of the situation related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. That said, we support the IAEA in implementing Iran's Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol in a dedicated and impartial fashion. We also call on Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA in clarifying all outstanding issues.

Finally, I wish to express Hungary's appreciation for the work that the IAEA is doing in promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Hungary has always been and will be a partner in these efforts, currently as a member of the Board of Governors.

Thank you, Mr President.