



Video Statement by
H.E. Mr Stef Blok
Minister of Foreign Affairs
the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the International Atomic Energy Agency

Video message

Recording date: 7 September 2020

Ladies and gentlemen.

We can only solve global problems by working together.

These are not hollow words.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has shown how international cooperation can truly pay off.

The Agency has taken responsibility and shipped vital COVID-19 testing kits to dozens of countries.

These kits are of great value in our fight against the pandemic.
A global crisis that requires a global response.

The Netherlands has contributed 500,000 euros to the development and distribution of these IAEA test kits, and we stand ready to continue our support. We look forward to discussing the new proposal.

Director General Grossi, we commend you and your staff for rising to the challenge... in these very challenging times.

Not only by using nuclear technology as a means for good,
but also by continuing your important work under difficult circumstances.
And, last but not least, by setting ambitious goals: gender parity at all levels by 2025. In this regard, we look forward to supporting the new Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program.

Over the past few months, inspections have continued, despite the crisis.
Including in Iran.

And the dialogue with Iran has continued as well.

We greatly appreciate the [IAEA's] ongoing cooperation with Iran, regarding both the JCPOA and safeguards.



The Netherlands continues to support the JCPOA, and we call on all partners to continue upholding the deal.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We all know that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The treaty is fundamental to international peace and security.

So it's vital that we strengthen the regime.

Safeguards are paramount. Without them, there wouldn't be a non-proliferation regime.

This is why we support the IAEA in its efforts to find new ways to verify that nuclear material and facilities remain in peaceful use.

Unfortunately, the NPT Review Conference has been postponed due to COVID-19. But we remain committed to working towards a meaningful Conference.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy is increasing.

And with it, the Agency's importance.

While we fully endorse the right to use nuclear energy in a peaceful way,

it is crucial that nuclear material and facilities are not misused.

And it's equally crucial that the highest safety standards and security measures are in place.

So we wholeheartedly support the Agency's invaluable work.

I wish all the participants a fruitful conference.

And I wish you good health. I look forward to meeting you again in person soon.

Thank you.