

SWEDEN

Statement

by

H.E. Mr Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden

International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

64th session

2020

Vienna

Thank you, Mr President,

I would like to begin by aligning myself with the statement of the European Union.

Turning now to some additional comments in my national capacity.

Mr President,

We meet under the shadow of pressing global challenges:

- a global pandemic
- an accelerating climate crisis and,
- fifty years after the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons entered into force: mounting challenges to global non-proliferation.

We are deeply concerned about the erosion of the global treaty structure that has served us well. The only way to tackle these challenges is to work together in solidarity, across borders.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is an inspiring example of how to do just that. It offers hope by illustrating how effective international cooperation – multilateralism – can contribute to global peace, security and development in a very tangible way.

We must recommit to our shared goals of multilateralism and a rules-based international order, of which this Agency is an indispensable part. We must give the Agency – and its Director General – our continued full support.

As Chair of the Board of Governors, Sweden has aimed to support these shared goals.

Mr President,

IAEA safeguards, including the Additional Protocol, are central to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

We welcome the Joint Statement on verification agreed in Tehran on 26 August, but we also urge Iran to implement its safeguards obligations more timely.

Sweden actively supports the efforts to preserve the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is also an essential part of the global non-proliferation architecture, and crucial for regional and international security. We call upon Iran to return to full implementation of its undertakings under the Plan of Action.

Mr President,

We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to adhere to its international obligations and take steps towards denuclearisation. Sweden supports the Agency's continued preparedness to assume verification tasks in the DPRK when appropriate. We will continue our active engagement for a peaceful resolution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Mr President,

Sweden supports the Agency's work on technology, safety and security, and would like to see it closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda. To this end, Sweden supports the Agency's projects on, for instance, water management and marine plastics. We welcome the Director General's commitment to tackling global issues, such as pandemics and pollution, using nuclear technology.

We support – and are contributing financially to – the Agency's resolute COVID-19 response.

We are also committed partners of the 'Saving Women's Lives from Cancer' initiative, which promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights by improving diagnosis and treatment in low- and middle-income countries.

Finally, Mr President,

As Sweden's term as Chair of the Board of Governors comes to an end, I wish to extend my best wishes for a successful conference and warmly welcome Canada as the incoming Chair.

Through joint efforts, I am convinced that the International Atomic Energy Agency will remain an excellent example of successful international cooperation.

Thank you.
