

**United Kingdom**

**Nadhim Zahawi MP**

**Minister for Business and Industry**

## **UK National Statement to the General Conference 2020**

Mr President

Congratulations on your appointment as President of this Conference.

The UK commends the Agency's efforts to continue its critical work throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and we were pleased to contribute £500k to the Agency's provision of testing equipment to member states in need.

The IAEA plays a key role in implementing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty – a cornerstone of international peace and security.

Having left the EU, the UK remains committed to robust nuclear safeguards and our new bilateral agreement with the Agency ensures this. The UK supports strengthening the global safeguards regime, ensuring it adapts to new challenges. I urge all states to ratify the Additional Protocol.

The UK strongly supports the JCPOA and is working hard to preserve the agreement given its importance to non-proliferation and security. The UK calls on Iran to come back into compliance with its commitments under the JCPOA, and we are grateful to the Director General for his dedication in monitoring this agreement.

Mr President

The IAEA's role supporting Member States implement the highest standards of nuclear safety and security is vital. I was delighted to attend this year's International Conference on Nuclear Security. We must continue working together to realise the commitments in the Ministerial Declaration.

The UK champions access to peaceful uses of nuclear technologies, and I am proud to pledge our contribution of 3.9 million euros to the Agency's 2021 Technical Cooperation Fund. We encourage the IAEA to help Least Developed Countries benefit from this Programme and to ensure that the Agency's work is coordinated with the wider UN family, focusses on the Agency's comparative advantage, and attracts new, non-traditional donors.

As we look toward COP26 in Glasgow next year, we must put climate at the heart of the recovery from Covid-19. That is why the UK has legislated for achieving net zero climate emissions by 2050, recognising the key role of nuclear in achieving this.

We have committed £100 million to the development of small and advanced modular reactors and technologies, unlocking thousands of green jobs. The UK commends DG Grossi for his leadership on climate change and I am pleased to announce that we will provide funding for the IAEA's research into the scourge of marine plastics.

We thank the DG for his commitment to improving gender diversity in nuclear and are pleased to support the Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship Programme.

The UK will continue to give the Secretariat, and the Director General, our full support.

Thank you.