

IAEA GC - National Statement by Ireland

Ambassador Eoin O’Leary, Resident Representative of Ireland, 22.9.2021

Mr President,

Ireland aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to make the following statement in a national capacity.

First, we underline our strong support for the leadership of DG Rafael Grossi, who is ensuring that the Agency fulfills its unique and vital role, including its monitoring and verification activities, and dealing with the continuing challenges presented by the pandemic. I congratulate the IAEA for the range of assistance it is continuing to provide to Member States at this time.

I recall that the NPT Review Conference should have taken place in 2020, but has been postponed until January 2022. While this was unavoidable, we must use the additional time to better prepare for a substantial RevCon in 2022 with a successful outcome, as we continue to work towards full implementation across the three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of the NPT.

As recognised by the GC in recent years, there is an important link between nuclear security and multilateral nuclear disarmament, and progress on the latter is still critically needed. Ireland is convinced that the existence of nuclear weapons makes the world a less secure place. We are fully committed to the NPT, to the highest levels of nuclear security, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

On the 6 August 2020, the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, Ireland ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force last January. The TPNW strengthens the international

nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It provides a legal pathway for the implementation of Article VI of the NPT and strengthens the IAEA safeguards system.

The year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which is an integral part of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. As President of the Security Council, Ireland will host a high-level briefing to mark this milestone for the CTBT. Though the Treaty has yet to enter into force, it has made an important contribution to international peace and security through its global verification regime. With one exception, since 1998, all States have respected the strong de-facto international norm created by the CTBT and upheld the global moratorium on nuclear weapons testing. Ireland calls individually on each of the eight Annex II states who have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the CTBT as soon as possible. All States should abide by the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and refrain from any action contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty.

This Agency plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. Ireland supports universal adherence to the Additional Protocol and stresses that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol constitute the current verification standard under the NPT. In this regard, it is vital that states developing their civilian nuclear programmes rescind their Small Quantities Protocol and sign and ratify the Additional Protocol to their Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA as a matter of priority. The upcoming NPT Review Conference will provide a timely opportunity to reaffirm the importance of universal adherence to IAEA safeguards, and build momentum to make progress on this issue.

President,

Ireland strongly supports the JCPOA, recognising its important contribution to nuclear non-proliferation. I am pleased that Ireland made a contribution to the IAEA's verification and monitoring activities in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2231. I am gravely concerned by Iran's increasing breaches of the JCPOA and urge Iran to return to full compliance with its terms. I hope that talks will resume in this city shortly, which will pave the way for US return and the restoration of the agreement. I welcome the recent visit of DG Grossi to Iran, and his untiring work in difficult circumstances to address the urgent situation. I continue to urge Iran to immediately provide full replies to all questions from the IAEA with regard to its safeguards, and to resume immediately full cooperation with the Agency, including application of the Additional Protocol, so that the Agency can provide assurances as to the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

Ireland urges DPRK to abandon its nuclear programme in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner and demonstrate good faith by immediately signing and ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and returning to compliance with the NPT and full cooperation with the IAEA.

Ireland regrets that Syria has not yet resolved its safeguards issues with the IAEA, and calls on Syria to cooperate with the Agency as a matter of priority and to sign, bring into force and implement in full an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as soon as possible.

Ireland recognises the sovereign right of every state to develop nuclear technologies for the generation of energy and other peaceful uses. While Ireland does not use nuclear energy for the generation of electricity, we greatly value and benefit from the peaceful applications of nuclear technologies. We

recognise the contribution that such peaceful applications can make to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Ireland commends DG Grossi and the Agency for the work to advance gender parity, including through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. Ireland was delighted to provide support to the fellowship at its initiation. Ireland continues to advocate for the equal participation of woman and men across nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and in particular encourages this in the context of the NPT. Ireland is convinced that achieving gender parity is closely linked to improved effectiveness across our work.

I assure you of Ireland's continued support for the Agency. **If we know outcome of election:** [We look forward to taking up our seat on the Board of Governors and working closely with all Members to continue the important work of the IAEA.]

Thank you.