



65th session of the General Conference – September 2021

Statement by Israel

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Director General Grossi for your efforts to convene this General Conference in a hybrid format, in light of the current COVID-19 circumstances.

The Israel Atomic Energy Commission commends the Agency for its leadership, for continuing its core activities throughout this difficult period, and for making every effort to address the urgent needs of Member States. I am pleased to update that despite the continuous obstacles raised by the pandemic, the annual safeguards inspection was conducted by the Agency in Israel as planned.

The State of Israel strongly supports the important **ZODIAC** initiative as well as the Program of Action for Cancer Therapy (**PACT**), led by DG Grossi. I am confident that this, alongside the Technical Cooperation program, will further enhance the IAEA's role in leading innovative nuclear applications to confront such challenges.

The State of Israel commends the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications' initiative to renovate IAEA Nuclear Applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, **ReNuAL 2.0**. In this context, I have the pleasure to announce that the Government of Israel decided to make an extra budgetary contribution to support the Agency in their efforts to upgrade the remaining laboratories that have not yet been modernized.



Mr. President,

Israel supports the essential role of the IAEA in the verification and monitoring of Member States' nuclear obligations. Israel has full confidence in the professional technical capabilities of the Agency, including in the ever challenging, publicly and covertly, evolving Iranian nuclear program.

The numerous regular and special reports by the Agency reflects that Iran remains in serious non-compliance with its safeguards obligations. Iran's constant failure to provide credible explanations for traces or uranium found at undeclared massively sanitized sites is a serious concern. The existence of undeclared nuclear materials and activities, along with fully documented nuclear weapons program, leave no doubt that Iran has a military nuclear program goal.

The international community should not ignore the facts and evidence on ground in favor of appeasing Iran so it changes its malicious behavior. It did not happen in the past and it will not happen in the future. Not in the regional obstruction and destabilizing actions and not in the nuclear realm.

Iran has a clear ill intention to pursue a nuclear weapons program, one way or another. Tactical maneuvers will not change Iran's way.



Another Iranian fellow violator, which is in non-compliance with its safeguards obligation, for over a decade, is Syria. Syria has consistently failed to cooperate with the Agency's investigation to clarify the origin of these significant number of uranium particles ever since. Syria's noncompliance and lack of cooperation is a dangerous precedent for current and future cases, including the DPRK and Iran - two great allies of the Syrian regime. Even Syria's closest ally, Iran, has finally admitted that Syria built a clandestine nuclear reactor in an official NV sent to the Agency. It is time for Syria to come clean.

Mr. President.

The State of Israel continues to support the IAEA in its efforts and programs, and would like to stress that it is imperative that continued attention will be given to these crucial professional and technical issues, and not to the efforts to politicize the Agency and its agenda. Israel regrets the continuous abuse and politicization of this forum by some Member States. The agenda item entitled, "Israel Nuclear Capabilities", placed on the agenda year after year, is politically driven, and contradicts the IAEA spirit.



Mr. President.

We must not ignore the repeated and explicit threats to attack Israel's nuclear facilities by Iran and its proxies. As demonstrated last May, thousands of missiles and rockets were launched towards the civilian population in Israel. This past round of escalation, as well as Israel's long history of security threats from its neighboring countries, reinforces our need to constantly upgrade the protection and security of our nuclear facilities. These facilities are regularly maintained in line with the IAEA safety and security guidelines, in order to withstand any attack. We must all take a clear stand against those willing to sacrifice the nuclear security and safety of an entire region. Israel remains fully committed and adheres to the most stringent nuclear safety and security guidelines.

The IAEC is looking forward to participating in the upcoming IAEA International Conference on Emergency Preparedness and to share our knowledge and best practices with all Member States. The State of Israel has openly expressed its willingness to cooperate with any state in the Middle East to strengthen nuclear security and safety as well as to promote peaceful applications of nuclear technologies in our region. We are hopeful that the "Abraham accords" signed last year would mark a path forward for a meaningful direct regional dialogue within our region.



Distinguished delegates.

We look forward to meaningful discussions in this forum, and to continuing our fruitful relationship with the Agency this year and in the years to come.

Thank you. Mr. President.