

Norway

IAEA General Conference, 2021

Statement for the general debate, delivered by H.E. Ine Eriksen Sørensen, Minister of Foreign Affairs

President

Congratulations on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference.

Norway commends the work of the Agency throughout the pandemic.

We, of course, hope for a return to normalcy as soon as possible. In the meantime we should also continue to adapt to new ways of working.

President

The IAEA plays a key role in the implementation of the NPT.

Norway calls for universal accession to the NPT. The Treaty has contributed to our common security for more than 50 years. It's crucial to ensure the Treaty's continued success and we look forward to the tenth Review Conference.

Norway recognizes the right of NPT States Parties to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. I am pleased to announce that Norway will contribute up to one million dollars (USD) to the Agency's *Peaceful Uses Initiative*.

President

Measures to enhance nuclear safety and security is a common good that increases public confidence and promotes international cooperation for peaceful uses.

We affirm the Agency's role in coordinating international cooperation on nuclear security.

We welcome the newly approved Nuclear Security Plan.

Minimisation and elimination of highly enriched uranium (HEU) is a crucial element in our shared efforts to strengthen nuclear security. Earlier this month, Norway and the United States signed an MOU to cooperate on the elimination

of all highly enriched uranium (HEU) in Norway. We plan to advance the project to the next stage within a couple of years.

Norway continues to support safety and security activities and address nuclear legacy issues in partner countries. Through my Government's Nuclear Action Plan, we have allocated more than 200 million dollars (USD) for this purpose over the past 25 years.

Norway commends the efforts of the IAEA to promote the universalisation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment ahead of the Review Conference in 2022.

We highly appreciate the Agency's dedication in light of the postponed seventh review meeting to the Joint Convention and the eight review meeting to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS). We encourage all Contracting Parties to continue all efforts to meet the objectives of these Conventions.

President

Non-proliferation is a cornerstone of Norway's foreign policy. We call for all Member States to conclude Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol as the global verification standard.

We support State-level Safeguards Approaches, which the Director General is fully mandated to pursue under existing safeguards agreements.

Norway strongly supports the work of the IAEA and its mandate. We deeply regret any action that undermines diplomacy for a return to full implementation of the JCPOA. There should be no room for uncertainty regarding the Agency's status in relation to Iran's nuclear programme. Signals of Iran's intent in resuming cooperation must be followed by concrete actions.

The nuclear weapons program of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains an unacceptable violation of international law. We appreciate the IAEA's readiness to take up nuclear verification in the DPRK on short notice.

President

The last two years, Norway has had the privilege of serving as a member of the Board of Governors.

Norway commends the Agency for its contributions to the global Covid-19 response and the Director General's initiative on women in STEM. We have been pleased to extend our support.

Norway will continue to work for an IAEA that safeguards peaceful nuclear activities and contributes to international credibility and cooperation for such activities. It is vital that all core activities of the Agency continue to receive the necessary funding.

President

Director General

Colleagues and distinguished delegates

I wish you all success for the coming week.

Thank you