

IAEA 66th General Conference
National Statement

Mr. President, congratulations on your election.

We meet at a moment of profound global challenges, including the increasingly perilous impact of climate change and mounting nuclear proliferation risks. Moreover, through its illegal and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine, Russia has violated the UN Charter and Russia's hostile actions against Ukrainian nuclear facilities and its continued control of Europe's largest nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhya, in particular, pose egregious nuclear safety, security, and safeguards threats, which strike at the heart of the Agency's mandate and are entirely unacceptable. We reiterate the words of the IAEA Board of Governors in calling on Russia to cease all actions against nuclear facilities in Ukraine and to allow Ukrainian authorities to resume full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders. The General Conference must address this critical issue.

Today's grave challenges reaffirm the fundamental truth that solutions to global problems require collective approaches achieved through effective multilateralism and international solidarity. Canada applauds the Agency's steadfast commitment to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, implementing safeguards as a critical element of non-proliferation and advancing nuclear safety and security. We strongly support the Agency's impartial, technical, and fact-based work in all these areas. In numerous capacities, the professional work of the Agency over the past year has been nothing short of remarkable.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy shows clear promise as a means to address global challenges. Canada recognizes the key role of nuclear energy and technologies in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, meeting climate change targets and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. We have been doing this domestically with our homegrown CANDU nuclear technology and are pleased this year to recognize the 70th anniversary of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Advanced technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) have the potential to further enhance energy access and unlock opportunities for decarbonizing the global economy. Canada issued its SMR Action Plan in 2020 for the development,

demonstration, and deployment of SMRs to reduce emissions, decarbonize heavy industry, and spur economic development. We would be pleased to share our progress and ongoing efforts to advance this technology.

As for global energy markets, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had a profound impact including on issues relating to energy affordability and energy security. This is particularly evident for the global nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear supplies markets. Canada has much to offer our friends and partners seeking to diversify energy supplies, including Canada's civil nuclear experience, expertise, and services. Canada stands ready to work with our partners to reduce reliance on civil nuclear and related goods from Russia.

Mister President,

Canada regrets that the Russian Federation, in an effort to avoid accountability for its invasion of Ukraine, prevented States Parties from reaching a consensus outcome at the recently concluded NPT Review Conference. Nonetheless, the groundwork for cooperation remains. Canada and other states parties reaffirmed the validity and integrity of the NPT and the draft outcome document represents

an incremental step forward in a difficult international environment. The States Parties reaffirmed the essential role of the Agency in supporting the Treaty's implementation.

Using nuclear energy comes with important obligations regarding nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation. It is paramount for the Agency and Member States to **continue the full and robust implementation of nuclear safeguards**, including the application of the Additional Protocol, which is essential to building confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear activities.

Continued efforts to address **regional proliferation concerns**, such as in North Korea, are also central to preserving international peace and security. We are pleased to announce \$2.5 million in additional Canadian support to the Agency's DPRK team for use over the next three years to continue its critical role in providing IAEA Member States with updated and technical assessments of the situation in the DPRK. In the Middle East, **Iran's nuclear program** remains a significant cause for concern and we remain deeply troubled by Iran's efforts to further advance its nuclear program over the past year and its continued lack of cooperation with the

Agency to address outstanding safeguards questions. Canada remains a firm supporter of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and hopes that the Agreement can be swiftly restored. We are a leading contributor to the IAEA's verification and monitoring in Iran, having contributed \$17 million since 2014 and stand ready to provide another \$4 million in funding to support activities until 2025.

We welcome the Agency's continued efforts to help Member States fulfill their **nuclear safety and security responsibilities**, without which the continued advancement and sharing of nuclear technology would not be possible. In this regard, Canada wishes to highlight the Regulatory Infrastructure Development Program projects as sterling examples of how the IAEA is providing comprehensive nuclear safety and security assistance for beneficiary states in Africa, Latin America and in the Caribbean. We also applaud the Agency's efforts to support Member States in implementing nuclear liability conventions, and look forward to continued collaboration on the development of a global nuclear liability regime.

We are faced with major challenges on the nuclear front. We need to prioritize what is most urgent while preserving what is essential. Canada remains committed

to ensuring the highest levels of nuclear safety and security, and will remain a steadfast supporter of the Agency's central role in ensuring the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you.