

**IAEA GC - National Statement by Ireland**  
**27.09.2022**

President,

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

Ireland takes this opportunity to underline our strong support for the leadership of Director General Rafael Grossi, and the indispensable work of the Agency including in its monitoring and verification activities and assistance it is providing to member states in its promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

President,

Ireland reiterates its strongest condemnation of the unprovoked and unjustified military invasion of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. For the last six months, the Russian Federation has disregarded the urgent calls by Member States, including by the IAEA Board of Governors in its resolutions, most recently on 15<sup>th</sup> September, to cease all actions against, and at, the Zaporizhzhia

Nuclear Power Plant and any other nuclear facility in Ukraine, in order for the competent Ukrainian authorities to regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders. In this time, the actions of the Russian Federation have repeatedly posed serious and direct threats to the safety, security, and safeguarding of Ukrainian nuclear facilities. The continued occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in particular has compromised the seven indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security that the Director General outlined to the Board as being necessary to ensure the safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine.

Ireland fully supports the work of the IAEA to assist Ukraine in ensuring nuclear safety and security, and to maintain IAEA safeguards on all nuclear materials and activities. We welcome the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia (ISAMZ). We commend the Director General and his team for their courage and determination and thank the Agency staff who continue to undertake vital work by remaining on site.

We support efforts to establish a more permanent IAEA presence at the Zaporizhzhia NPP in order to assist Ukraine and provide information to IAEA Member States. We support implementation of all of the Director General's recommendations, including that vehicles currently present inside and around the buildings be removed so that they do not interfere with the operation of the safety and security systems and equipment. We welcome and support the Director General's important proposal to address serious risks by establishing a nuclear safety and security protection zone around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Ireland is deeply disappointed that the Tenth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) concluded last month without agreement. We regret that one country the Russian Federation prevented consensus on an outcome document. The NPT remains the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and all obligations, and commitments from the past Review Conferences, remain valid and must be implemented. We will

continue to work towards full implementation across all the three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of the NPT. Ireland stresses that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol constitute the current verification standard under the NPT. It is vital that states developing their civilian nuclear programmes rescind their Small Quantities Protocol and sign and ratify the Additional Protocol as a matter of priority and without further delay.

Ireland recognises the sovereign right of every state to develop nuclear technologies for the generation of energy and other peaceful uses. Ireland recognizes that nuclear and radiological technologies play an important role in areas such as medicine, industry, food and agriculture, and can contribute to a wide variety of socioeconomic and environmental benefits, particularly in developing countries. The IAEA's activities play a crucial role in supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

If countries choose to use nuclear power, then it is essential that it is used safely and securely. We continue to attach the utmost importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security standards, and we greatly appreciate the crucial role played by the IAEA in this regard. We recall the seven Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security outlined by IAEA Director General Grossi in March 2022. We believe that the Seven Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security play a pivotal role in all circumstances, including in situations of armed conflict.

As recognised by the General Conference in recent years, Ireland underlines the important link between nuclear security and multilateral nuclear disarmament – progress on the latter is critically needed.

In June 2022, Ireland participated in the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and welcomed the successful outcome of this meeting, with the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan. Ireland was

pleased to be appointed together with Thailand as informal co facilitator on Complementarity between the NPT and TPNW during the intersessional period and looks forward to working to raise awareness of the complementarity between the two treaties.

Ireland recognizes the important contribution of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to global peace and security, though it is yet to enter into force. It is an integral part of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. With one exception, all states have upheld the global norm against nuclear 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. We also call on all states to abide by the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions and refrain from any action contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty.

President,

Ireland is deeply concerned by Iran's nuclear activities which are inconsistent with the JCPoA. The steps that have been taken raise

very serious proliferation risks, in some cases with no plausible civilian justification, and make a return to full implementation of the JCPOA more difficult. We call on Iran to reverse all activity inconsistent with the JCPOA and to return to full cooperation with the IAEA on monitoring and verification, including resumption of the application of the Additional Protocol pending its early ratification. The JCPOA is of strategic importance for the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. Only full JCOPA implementation, and the urgent resolution of outstanding safeguards issues, can provide the international community with the necessary assurances of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

Ireland condemns the unprecedented number of ballistic missile launches conducted by the DPRK since September 2021, and the reoccurring indications of ongoing nuclear activities at multiple locations in the DPRK. Ireland supports the full implementation of UN Resolutions and UN sanctions, towards the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the peninsula and to end the DPRK's ballistic missile programme. Ireland is gravely concerned by

the DPRK's preparations for a nuclear weapons test. A nuclear test by DPRK would be utterly unacceptable, DPRK must abandon its nuclear programme in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner return to compliance with the NPT and full cooperation with the IAEA and demonstrate good faith by immediately signing and ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT),.

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.

Ireland commends DG Grossi and the Agency for the work to advance gender parity, including through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. Ireland was pleased to provide support to fellowship at its initiation. Ireland is convinced that achieving gender parity is closely linked to improved effectiveness across our work and that an inclusive workforce will contribute to and drive global scientific and technological innovation in safeguards and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Ireland will continue to support full, equal and meaningful



participation of women across all three pillars of the NPT and the integration of a gender perspective in all our work.

Let me conclude by assuring you of Ireland's continued full support for the Agency.

Thank you.

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