



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

**Video message for the IAEA**

**Foreign minister Wopke Hoekstra**

**Recording date: 13 September 2022**

Ladies and gentlemen,

In today's unstable and grim reality, international cooperation is more important than ever.

The work of the International Atomic Energy Agency is absolutely essential.

Over the past months, one name has been on everyone's mind.

Zaporizhzhia.

The incidents at this nuclear power plant in Ukraine continue to pose a great danger to workers as well as to anyone living near the plant.

Director General Grossi, I would like to commend you and your team for your boldness and determination in protecting their safety, as well as ours.

You have achieved an important diplomatic feat in ensuring inspections could take place at the power plant.

By doing so, you have shown the value not only of your own work, but of the agreements we have made.

The value of the rules-based order.

Despite severe conflict, the work of the IAEA continues.

Inspections underpinned by our common interests.

Inspections that form the basis of our safety and security.

It is paramount that the seven indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security are upheld.

They represent the most fundamental of the basic rules that should be followed in order to ensure the safe and secure operation of nuclear facilities.

They are easy to understand and don't require a full read-through of the IAEA's Safety Standards and Nuclear Security Series.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the unstable reality we live in, we must be able to rely on existing commitments to non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

And in that respect, we must continue to strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

We all know that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is fundamental to international peace and security.

It represents our shared determination to prevent nuclear conflict and work towards global zero.

But like any other commitment, it requires a collaborative effort to ensure it remains relevant.

In light of this, the Netherlands has endeavoured to play a constructive role, as one of the co-chairs of the NPT review conference.

We regret Russia's blocking of the final document, preventing us from reaching a consensus.

But I also note that 190 countries were ready to compromise and strike a deal.

We should use that positive momentum to keep moving forwards in making our world a safer place.

[pause]

In the unstable reality we live in, we also need safeguards.

Without safeguards, there wouldn't be a non-proliferation regime.

Hence we call on Member States who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and an Additional Protocol.

We support the IAEA's State-level approach, ensuring a safeguards system that is fit for purpose.

And in respect of new commitments with regard to non-proliferation, a renewed nuclear agreement with Iran is and remains of the utmost importance.

[Pause]

We are all aware of the importance and positive impact of nuclear technology.

Technology that can help cure, feed and protect people.

Technology that can improve our lives and the world we live in.  
On condition that it is safe and secure.

And that it does not contribute to nuclear proliferation.

It is the Agency that helps us on all of these counts.

As the use of nuclear technology grows, so does the amount of nuclear material worldwide.

We must ensure that this material is used responsibly.

And that the Agency has the means and tools to apply its safeguards, and carry out its safety and security tasks.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We need boldness and determination to protect our safety and security.

Boldness and determination as shown by Mr Grossi and his team.

Boldness and determination that we must show today.

I wish you a fruitful conference.