

Norway

IAEA General Conference, 2021

Statement for the general debate, delivered by Mr Atle Korta Midttun, Deputy Director General, Department for Security Policy and the High North, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President

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

For the first time in history, a military conflict plays out in the vicinity of civilian nuclear power plants. Russia's unprovoked and illegal war against Ukraine has put Europe's biggest nuclear plant in danger. Russia's presence at the Zaporizhzhia NPP has caused unprecedented risk to nuclear safety and security.

Russia's recent escalation, including renewed threats to use nuclear weapons, is utterly reckless and totally unacceptable.

Norway affirms the importance of the Seven Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security. We support the IAEA in helping the implementation of these pillars in Ukraine. The Agency's professional and impartial efforts are key to our common understanding of the situation. We thank the DG and the Agency staff for all their efforts. We also commend the hard work done by the Ukrainian staff, brave men and women, who continue to carry on under severe circumstances.

We again urge Russia to remove all its personnel, armed as well as unarmed, from the ZNPP and to withdraw all forces from within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders.

President

This August the 10th Review Conference of the NPT was finally held. While Russia blocked agreement on a substantive final document, the role

and indispensable work of the IAEA in the implementation of articles III and IV was widely noted.

The NPT has contributed to our common security for more than half a century. The Treaty is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. We look forward to working with States parties in the upcoming review cycle, and to the first Preparatory Committee to be held next year here in Vienna.

Non-proliferation is a key priority of Norway's foreign policy. We call on all Member States to conclude Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol. It is within the IAEA's and its Director General's mandate to pursue State-level Safeguards Approaches.

President

We deeply regret Iran's failure to cooperate with the IAEA to resolve outstanding safeguards issues. Only Iran can provide the necessary clarifications that may enable the Director General to report that these issues are no longer outstanding. The Agency has our full support.

Norway hopes for a revival of the JCPOA. We are deeply worried that such prospects have been undermined by Iran's actions to stop implementing its nuclear-related commitments and its continued nuclear work, including pursuits that have no credible civilian purpose. We urge Iran to return to full compliance with its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.

We deplore the DPRK's nuclear activities in flagrant violation of international law. The reopening of the nuclear test site is deeply troubling. We appreciate the IAEA's readiness to resume nuclear verification in the DPRK.

We appreciate the recent report from the DG on Agency safeguards in relation to "AUKUS" and the transparent approach to the project from the three involved countries. We support the continued the discussions

between the parties and underline that this is in line with the mandate of the DG.

President

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

We appreciate the work done by the Agency to coordinate international cooperation on nuclear security, including hosting the Conference of the Parties to the Amended CPPNM (Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendments) earlier this year.

Minimisation and elimination of highly enriched uranium (HEU) is a crucial element in our shared efforts to strengthen nuclear security. In cooperation with the United States, we continue our work for the elimination of HEU stocks in Norway.

Norway commends the Director General's initiative on women in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and the Mathematics). Including more women in nuclear-related industries contributes to an increased understanding and acceptance of nuclear technologies.

We also commend the Agency for its contributions to the global Covid-19 response.

President

Director General

Colleagues and distinguished delegates

I wish you all success for this General Conference

Thank you