

STATEMENT

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

delivered by Mr. Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński

Undersecretary of State

Ministry of Climate and Environment

to the 67th General Conference

of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, 26th September 2023

Madame President, Mr. Director General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate Her Excellency Mrs. Vilawan MANGKLATANAKUL on her election to the honorable function of the President of the sixty seventh session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I assure you of Poland's full support and co-operation.

Mr. Director General,

I congratulate the appointment to serve for the next term.

Madam President, Mr Director General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland is deeply concerned that despite several resolutions adopted by the Board of Governors on the safety, security and safeguard implications of the situation in Ukraine, the global safety is still endangered due to continued illegal and violent occupation of Ukrainian nuclear facilities, namely Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, by Russian aggressors. The situation at Zaporizhzhya NPP is becoming more severe, as Kakhovka Dam has been destroyed, limiting significantly available cooling options for ZNPP. Furthermore, transmission of radiation monitoring data and other communication from ZNPP to Ukrainian regulatory authority is disrupted by occupational forces. These conditions may cause serious threat to nuclear safety and lead to disastrous consequences in case of nuclear emergency.

I recall that the Board's resolutions adopted last year demanded that Russian occupant cease all actions against, and at nuclear facilities in Ukraine, and withdraw its military and other personnel from all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders in order to restore full control of competent Ukrainian authorities over those installations. The Board's resolutions still need to be fully implemented. The role of Director General and the Agency in resolving this matter is essential and irreplaceable.

Poland declares its full confidence in the IAEA and Director General when fulfilling their role, notably in safeguarding the commitments under the NPT. We appreciate

the full cooperation of the respective Governments with the IAEA. The IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the IAEA plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Esteemed Delegates, Dear Friends,

I would like to underline that the Polish government considers nuclear energy as valuable and dispatchable source of energy and as the main industrial technology that provides a significant contribution to the fight against climate change and to socio-economic development and what recently became crucial due to the Russian aggression on Ukraine – to ensuring energy security.

Those advantages of nuclear power are reflected in the Polish Nuclear Power Programme as the main rationale for introduction nuclear power into Polish energy mix and national long term energy policy.

The roadmap for the process provides that 6 to 9 GW of nuclear power capacity will be put into operation by 2043.

In addition to the Polish Nuclear Power Programme, prepared and adopted by the Government in October 2020, there is a growing interest among the Polish large energy-intensive corporations in nuclear power, including the SMR technology. The business initiatives can complement the Government programme and contribute to faster decarbonization of the Polish energy system, especially in areas such as industrial and district heating, as well as hydrogen production.

Madame President, distinguished Delegates,

Poland continues to improve its nuclear safety framework. This month we hosted Integrated Regulatory Review Service in Warsaw, with a goal to review and strengthen government and regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety. The IRRS mission also reviewed regulatory readiness for introduction of nuclear power in Poland. It was the second IRRS mission to Poland, invited 10 years after the first Mission. Results of the peer-review will support our efforts to continuously improve nuclear safety and to have adequate regulatory

infrastructure for the Polish Nuclear Power Programme. The IRRS Mission concluded that Polish nuclear regulatory framework is in line with the IAEA safety standards and National Regulator is prepared for the launch of the Polish Nuclear Power Programme.

Poland also invited the INIR mission 2 which will review the development of Polish nuclear power infrastructure needed for the safety operation of first nuclear power plants in our country. The process of preparation for INNRR mission has already started and is well advanced.

Poland also recognizes the great value of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program. Participation in TC national and regional projects – in nuclear safety, radiation protection, nuclear power, medical and industrial applications - significantly contributes to sustainable development of Poland. We gladly continue to provide support to the TC Program, including hosting events and fellowships in Poland as well as providing national experts for the Agency activities.

I am very excited to see more and more young Polish engineers interested in our efforts to modernize our energy system and to reach our climate goals.

This is why I am delighted also by the Agency's activity in the training of the so much needed experts through programs such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship for young women scientists.

Madame President, Mr. Director General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recent process of deploying of Russian tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus significantly increases the risks of escalation and negatively affects both global and regional environment.

Russia's decision is a further step to fully subordinate Belarus politically and militarily and to instrumentalize Minsk in its aggressive policy.

Madame President, distinguished Delegates,

Other global security challenges have not disappeared. In contrary, they have become even more visible nowadays.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continues to carry out its military nuclear and missile programs with no perspectives to engage in any substantial negotiations. Pyongyang sends dangerous signs of readiness to raise the stakes even higher by carrying out another nuclear test.

The DPRK must engage in denuclearization talks and fully comply with all United Nations Security Council's resolutions and return to the IAEA Safeguards system.

Moreover, reports of the Director General of the IAEA on Iran's implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the Security Council Resolution 2231 cause additional concern. They clearly show that Teheran, by continuing its uranium enrichment activities only departs from the positive path and with that, undermines the IAEA safeguards system.

Our positions is clear: Poland continuously supports efforts aiming at keeping JCPOA alive, which is a key element of the nuclear non-proliferation architecture. It would be of utmost importance if parties would be able to finally reach consensus on the JCPOA reactivation.

Distinguished Participants,

Concluding my remarks I would like to underline that Poland expresses its strong concern about the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and unprecedented violation of all international law and key principles of nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Therefore, Russia's reprehensible policy should be condemned in the strongest possible terms and reflected in appropriate activities on the international forums, including IAEA which should assess the current Russia position and role in the organization.

We should do whatever is possible to decrease Russia's status in the IAEA, starting with drastically limiting the Russian staff. Poland has made efforts in this direction and we are going to hold this course.

I would like to renew our call to suspend the Russian Federation as a member of the IAEA for its actions.