

STATEMENT BY FINLAND

61th General Conference of the IAEA

General debate

H.E. Ambassador Hannu Kyröläinen

Resident Representative

Mr. Vice-President,

Finland associates herself fully with the statement of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make following remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating H.E. Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson on her election as President of the 61st General Conference. I would also like to express my gratitude to Director General Yukiya Amano for his devoted input to the work of the Agency. I congratulate Mr. Amano for his re-appointment. I also thank the Secretariat and whole IAEA staff for their continued professional and impartial work.

Mr. Vice-President,

Let me start by welcoming Grenada as the new member of Agency.

Nuclear power is an important element of the energy mix in many countries. This is also the case in Finland where assuring security of supply and reaching emission reduction targets face increased challenges. Finland has produced **nuclear energy** safely, reliably and efficiently for 40 years this year. Our comprehensive knowhow is based on the longstanding running and development of nuclear power plants. This has been done in parallel with national research programs and has resulted in continuously improved safety.

Nuclear safety is a key priority to us. We have consistently supported the Agency's activities in this area. It is essential that countries using or embarking on nuclear power have a sound legislative framework for nuclear and radiation safety, an independent, competent and well-resourced regulatory body, as well as responsible licensees with safety as their first priority. In accordance with the Vienna Declaration, Finland is committed to sharing its experience and knowhow with the aim to enhance nuclear safety globally.

Mr. Vice-President,

Finland has currently activities in nearly all phases of the life cycle of a nuclear facility: from design to final disposal. There are two ongoing nuclear power plant projects. The design of the Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power plant is being finalised to fulfil the Finnish regulations and construction of this plant is about to start in a few years. The construction of Olkiluoto 3 nuclear power plant unit has recently proceeded to the hot functional test phase and the commercial operation is expected to start soon.

One of our major projects is in the field of **nuclear waste management**, which is an essential part of responsible and sustainable use of nuclear energy: the construction of a disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel which is the first of its kind in the world. This underground repository has now entered the construction phase. It will make use of advanced technology, mainly developed in Finland, and meet strict safety, security

and safeguards requirements. The facility is scheduled to be operational in the first half of 2020's.

Finland is also willing to share her knowledge in the safe use of nuclear energy, especially in nuclear safety and nuclear waste management. The Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority STUK, among others, offers its services worldwide through a newly established company STUK International Ltd. Cooperation between Finland and the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia is a good and recognised example of this kind of work.

The **security of nuclear materials and facilities** is also given a high priority in Finland. We continue to provide financial and in-kind support to the IAEA's Nuclear Security activities, including through the Nuclear Security Fund (NSF). We will also continue to participate in activities in other international fora. Finland serves as the international coordinator for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism for the next two years.

Mr. Vice-President,

proliferation of nuclear weapons is a real concern for the global community. The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. The international community must take measures to uphold the Treaty and to advance nuclear disarmament. Finland is a strong supporter of the NPT. The universalization of and the full compliance with the Treaty are of utmost importance to us.

Finland strongly condemns the nuclear and ballistic missile tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These tests continue the DPRK's series of grave violations of international agreements and obligations. They are extremely dangerous for the stability of the region and constitute a threat to international peace and security. We urge the DPRK to fully observe its international obligations,

abandon its nuclear program and commit to close cooperation with the international community, including the Agency.

Finland gives its full support to the IAEA in implementing the necessary verification and monitoring of Iran's commitments as set in the JCPOA and recalls the importance to ensure necessary means for the Agency to carry out its role. Finland is preparing to make another contribution of 200 000 euros to the IAEA for this work. This will bring Finland's total contribution to the verification and monitoring of the JCPOA to 1 000 000 euros.

Mr. Vice-President,

In conclusion, I want to thank the IAEA for its work contributing to international peace and security, and assure the Agency of our continuous support for its valuable work in promoting safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

Thank you.