

Statement on behalf of
Hungary

delivered by

Mr. András Aradszki

Minister of State for Energy Affairs
Ministry of National Development

at the 61st General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency

19 September 2017

Vienna, Austria

Madame President,

On behalf of the Hungarian Delegation, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to you on your election to the Presidency of the 61st session of the IAEA General Conference. You may rest assured of our full co-operation in discharging your important responsibilities.

Let me begin by saying that the statement delivered here is a shortened version in order to accommodate the decision made during the 60th General Conference limiting the duration of the statements. A longer version will be available on the IAEA website.

I am pleased to welcome Grenada as new member of the Agency.

The Hungarian Delegation associates itself with the position that has been expressed by H. E. Mr. Meelis Münt of Estonia, who spoke on behalf of the European Union.

Madame President, Distinguished Delegates,

Nuclear energy is the main contributor to Hungary's domestic electricity generation, and is expected to meet the majority of our electricity needs in the future.

One of the main pillars of our nuclear energy strategy is the lifetime extension of our existing four units, which is currently ongoing. This year, Hungary has made headway with the preparation for the construction of two new units at the Paks site: the site license and the environmental license have been issued by the competent authorities.

Let me also point out that in April 2017, a minister without portfolio was appointed, who is in charge of the capacity maintenance programme of the Paks NPP.

This year, Hungary participated at the Seventh Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety which acknowledged that our country fulfils the provisions of the Convention. Moreover, a number of Hungarian actions and initiatives have been identified as good performance and good practice.

Madame President,

I turn now to the issue of nuclear security.

Hungary commends the IAEA for convening the International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016. We believe that it is essential to maintain the central role of the Agency in this field and provide it with the required technical, human and financial resources. Consequently, we welcome and support the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan for 2018-2021.

Speaking of nuclear security, I would also like to showcase a recent success in that field. The IAEA has designated the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre for Energy Research as an official Collaborating Centre in Nuclear Forensics. Hungary will be pleased to support the Agency's activities in the future with its innovative solutions in nuclear forensics.

In 2013, Hungary requested a full-scope IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service Mission in order to enhance the national legal framework for nuclear security. A follow-up IPPAS mission took place this year which provided a positive assessment of the implementation of the recommendations and suggestions made by the 2013 mission.

Madame President,

The nuclear and ballistic missile tests carried out by North Korea in the last two years are signalling a particularly alarming trend. Hungary strongly condemns the DPRK for violating a number of relevant UN Security Council and IAEA General Conference resolutions, posing a serious threat to the security and stability of the region and the whole world.

Madame President,

We believe that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between the E3/EU+3 and Iran creates a positive example for resolving controversial questions in accordance with the principles of the NPT. Hungary welcomes that the obligations are fulfilled so far, and considers the verification activities of the IAEA crucial throughout the implementation of the JCPOA.

Hungary contributes to the Agency's verification tasks in Iran by providing in-field training opportunities for safeguards inspectors, and we continue to offer our skills and capabilities in the safeguards field to the Agency.

Madame President,

Hungary fully supports the aim of the international community and the Agency to ensure that the Iranian nuclear programme remains in compliance with international norms, while also lives up to the highest standards of nuclear safety. Hungary is ready to help strengthen the capabilities of the Iranian regulatory authority within the framework of the IAEA as well as the European Union in order to enhance nuclear safety.

Madame President,

It is my great pleasure to convey our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. I am pleased to announce that Hungary has offered a voluntary contribution of 60.000 euros to the Technical Cooperation Fund, as well as the expertise of Hungarian facilities and individuals in the framework of the 2018-2019 TC Europe Programme.

Madame President,

In conclusion, I wish to reassure the endorsement of the Hungarian Government to the re-appointment of His Excellency Yukiya Amano for a third term as Director-General of the Agency. Hungary appreciates the tremendous work undertaken by the IAEA over the past 60 years and we are dedicated to support the Agency's mission in the future.

Thank you, Madame President.