

**Statement by Ms Anke ter Hoeve-van Heek**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the**  
**Netherlands to the International Atomic Energy Agency**

*20 September 2017, Vienna*

Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first join previous speakers, Madam President, in congratulating you on your presidency of this 61<sup>st</sup> General Conference.

The Netherlands would also like to congratulate Director General Amano on his appointment to a third term in office and welcome Grenada as the newest Member State of the IAEA.

Madam President,

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made by Estonia on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make the following remarks from a national perspective.

**Non-Proliferation**

The Netherlands continues to place the highest priority on strengthening the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, with the NPT as its cornerstone. *The NPT PrepCom earlier this year, which the Netherlands had the privilege to chair, reaffirmed that the NPT is essential to international peace and security. As we go forward in the review cycle, we would like to call on all States Parties to the NPT, to continue working together to find areas of compromise and to make progress where possible in a spirit of cooperation. We wish the incoming Chair of the PrepCom, Poland, every success.*

In the NPT framework, the role of the IAEA is crucial, as the only organization with the expertise and the capacity to carry out the necessary verification activities. The Agency's ability to do so has to be preserved.

**Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Madam President,

The importance of strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime was clearly demonstrated by the most recent provocations by the DPRK. The Netherlands joined the international community in strongly condemning North Korea's sixth nuclear weapons test on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The DPRK must fully comply with its international obligations, including UN Security Council Resolutions, and it must fully cooperate with the IAEA in the application of safeguards.

The Netherlands commends the IAEA for maintaining its readiness to send inspectors to the DPRK on short notice, should conditions permit. As our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bert Koenders, said: "Pressure and dialogue are the only methods to achieve a sustainable solution."

## **Safeguards**

Madam President,

To support the Agency's role in providing robust assurances against nuclear proliferation, we must work to strengthen the safeguards system. To that end, we support the universalization of the Additional Protocol. Together with a comprehensive safeguards agreement, the Additional Protocol constitutes the current standard of verification enshrined in Article 3 of the NPT.

We also support the IAEA's further development of the state-level concept as a necessary tool to keep the safeguards system sustainable in light of a mounting safeguards burden.

## **Iran-JCPOA**

The Netherlands commends and continues to fully support the Agency's role in verifying Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We are pleased that recent reports on the implementation of the JCPOA have shown that Iran is verifiably acting in accordance with the agreement. It is essential that all parties remain committed to the JCPOA.

## **Nuclear Security and Safety**

Madam President,

The Netherlands attaches great importance to strengthening nuclear security globally. We stress that nuclear security does not impede but helps enable the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We continue to strongly support the IAEA's central role in this area. In order to carry out this central role, the Agency needs reliable and sufficient funding for its nuclear security activities, including through the regular budget. *While we welcome the allocation of regular budget for four additional positions in the Division of Nuclear Security, more needs to be done.* The Netherlands is ready to pledge 1 million euros to the NSF for the implementation by the Agency of the Nuclear Security Plan 2018-2021.

*We also encourage all states to become party to and fully implement the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Doing so will greatly enhance our collective ability to address current and emerging nuclear security challenges. The upcoming CPPNM meeting in November will provide an important opportunity to discuss implementation of the amended Convention and to begin consideration of the review meeting of the Convention that will take place in 2021.*

We further invite and encourage all member states to commit to the initiative to 'strengthen nuclear security implementation,' otherwise known as INFCIRC/869, which aims to help enhance national nuclear security regimes.

With respect to **safety**, we thank the Agency for convening the 7<sup>th</sup> review conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety earlier this year, in which the Netherlands took active part. It is important to continue incorporating the lessons learned from Fukushima and working to implement the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety.

The Netherlands continues to work to improve its robust domestic framework for nuclear safety. This past year we hosted several advisory missions and follow-up missions, including the first ever Independent Safety Culture Assessment conducted for a research reactor, at the NRG facility in Petten. *In the coming year, we will have a number of additional follow-up missions.*

In line with IRRS recommendations, the independence of the Dutch national regulator was further strengthened by its transformation into an autonomous institution on August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Madam President,

The Netherlands continues to stress the need for the IAEA to have the appropriate technical, financial and human resources to carry out its fundamental role of advancing peaceful uses of nuclear technology for the benefit of all. This holds true with regard to allocations under the regular budget as well as to voluntary contributions.

To this end, the Netherlands remains a strong supporter of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, and will continue to pledge our full target share to the Technical Cooperation Fund. At the same time, we underline the importance of enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's activities in this field through the clear setting of priorities, monitoring and evaluation of projects. We would hope that we can agree on a new formula for the so-called Due Account Mechanism as soon as possible.

Madam President,

We recognize and appreciate the steps that have been taken to achieve a better gender balance in the Secretariat. We encourage the Director General to continue working towards yet a higher percentage of women in professional and management positions.

Madam President,

To conclude: it is in our shared interests to continue working together to harness the benefits of atomic energy for all mankind. This is something that requires upholding the highest standards of safety, security and safeguards. And it is something that requires our collaborative effort to realize our common security and development goals.

Thank you Madam President.