

Madam President,

Let me congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference. Let me also echo the warm congratulations to DG Amano upon his reappointment and commend him and his staff for their dedication and excellent work.

Norway remains a staunch supporter of the way the Agency is carrying out its statutory functions in the fields of non-proliferation, nuclear safety, nuclear security, nuclear energy and technical cooperation. The IAEA plays a key role in the implementation of the NPT, to which Norway places the utmost importance.

Norway is deeply concerned about the DPRK's nuclear weapons and missile programme, and strongly condemns its repeated violations of international law. Their actions are unacceptable and require strong and united response from the UN Security Council and the international community.

Norway welcomes the Agency's continued readiness to play a role in nuclear verification in the DPRK and the formation of a dedicated DPRK-team within the department of Safeguards. The Agency is the only international body that can play this important role.

Madam President,

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation remain high on the Norwegian foreign policy agenda. We continue to work actively for non-proliferation and disarmament based on the balanced, mutual, irreversible and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons.

We are pleased to note that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is implemented successfully. Norway contributed substantially to its timely implementation and remains deeply

committed to Security Council Resolution 2231. We call on Iran to continue its ongoing, full cooperation with the IAEA, including by providing all requested access in a timely manner. We also call on all parties to the JCPOA to do their part in upholding this agreement.

The Agency's system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We call for universal accession to the NPT and for all Member States to conclude the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the Agency, and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol.

Norway commends the Agency on the way it is implementing its safeguards mandate. We recognize that sufficient resourcing is a continuing challenge. We welcome new instruments, such as the modernization of safeguards information technology and new, rational methods, in particular the work to implement the State Level Concept.

Nuclear energy will continue to provide a sizeable portion of the world's energy supply. Norway has for a long time assisted several member states to improve their safety framework and culture.

Norway is pleased with the pace and direction of the Agency's safety work and shares the principles of the Vienna Declaration. We need to further improve safety and emergency preparedness. We must enhance coordination in order to make effective use of existing expertise.

Norway strongly supports the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) and the Joint Convention. We encourage all member states to address the challenges identified during the Seventh Review Meeting on the CNS. We need strengthened adherence to nuclear liability conventions. We welcome the recent issuing of a number of important safety requirements and the approval of the Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources.

Norway encourages all member states to carry out regular self-assessments, and regularly host Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) and other Agency peer review missions. Norway is planning for such a mission in 2019.

As a coastal state, transport safety remains an issue of high importance for Norway. The informal dialogue between coastal and shipping states has proven valuable for fostering mutual understanding, confidence building and enhancing communication. We encourage all interested member states to participate in this dialogue.

The imminent deployment of floating and transportable nuclear power plants demands our attention. There is a growing gap between the existing safety framework and the requirements associated with the deployment and operation of such facilities. The Agency must intensify its considerations of all aspects of the safety and security in this regard. The scope and applicability of existing requirements and instruments need to be clarified and developed. In due course, a full review and gap analysis of the existing safety standards and various codes and instruments applicable to floating nuclear power plants should be conducted. We are grateful to other interested member states, such as the Russian Federation, who are engaging constructively on this issue.

The Agency plays a crucial role in coordinating nuclear security efforts internationally. The ministerial declaration adopted at the High-level Conference in December reaffirmed the central role of the IAEA in coordinating international cooperation on nuclear security. We call on the IAEA to continue to organize these conferences every three years.

We look forward to a review meeting of the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

The minimizing and elimination of the use and stockpiling of highly enriched uranium (HEU), by converting to non-HEU alternatives remains a Norwegian priority. A total of 22 Member States have signed up to Information Circular 912 and committed themselves to the elements of a comprehensive plan aimed at minimizing the use of HEU in civilian applications. Norway will host the 3rd International Symposium on HEU Minimization in June next year in cooperation with the Agency. We invite all interested member states to participate.

Norway encourages work to prevent the smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive materials and to enhance international cooperation. We encourage the Agency and relevant international organizations to assist member states. We must do our utmost to prevent nuclear terrorism and ensure that the Agency's activities in this field do not rely on extra-budgetary funding only.

A robust safety and security regime enables the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology. It is vital that all the core activities of the Agency continue to receive the necessary funding. Norway's substantial contribution to the IAEA's LEU fuel bank in Kazakhstan bears witness to our commitment to ensure Member States right to make peaceful and responsible use of nuclear energy.

Madam President,

As a member of the Group of Friends of Women in Nuclear, Norway notes with satisfaction the increasing share of women in the professional staff category of the Agency and encourages the Agency to continue its efforts in this regard.

The Agency has an important role in the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Norway is fully committed to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme and a strong supporter of the Peaceful Uses Initiative. We particularly welcome the progress made in the modernization of the Agency's Nuclear Applications laboratories in Seibersdorf and are proud to have our country's name on the recently inaugurated donor wall. In addition, Norway contributes to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund and to the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

Thank you.