

# **STATEMENT**

**By Andrzej J. Piotrowski**

**Undersecretary of State**

**Ministry of Energy**

**POLAND**

**on the occasion of the**

**61th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

of the

International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna

**Madam President,**

1.

On behalf of the Polish delegation, I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of your important and difficult task as President of the sixty first session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I assure you of the full support and co-operation of my delegation in the fulfillment of your responsibilities.

The Polish delegation in general shares the comments made by the Estonian Presidency on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

2.

**Madame President, distinguished Delegates,**

In January 2014, the Council of Ministers adopted the Polish Nuclear Power Programme - a strategic document containing the „road map” to develop nuclear power.

The Polish government is currently updating the Programme, which envisages the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Poland.

The Ministry of Energy takes care that this decision is taken mainly due to energy security reasons, e.g. to secure the long-term electricity supply at rational costs, respecting at the same time the environmental protection policy as this will translate into significant savings of CO<sub>2</sub> annual emission level in the Polish electricity generation sector.

The construction of the first nuclear power plant in Poland has now support of majority of the Polish citizens according to opinion polls. It provides the environmental protection, answers that renewables do not. Poland being now in over 85% coal dependent, is going limit that to 50% by year 2050.

It is also the way we believe the gap in the energy supplies resulting from the electromobility steep development shall be filled up with a clean, non-intermittent and cost effective nuclear energy.

There are still many important outstanding issues to be dealt with before the Government can issue the so called “decision-in-principle” on the project. The outstanding issues include the final selection of the location, reactor technology, and the financing model. We are planning to finalize the update of the Programme and the economic consideration by the end of this year.

Having that in mind we are going to invite next year the IAEA Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review after reaching the Milestone for Phase 2.

3.

**Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Poland remains fully committed to the paramount goal of assuring the highest achievable level of nuclear safety. I have a pleasure to communicate that this year Poland received follow-up mission of Integrated Regulatory Review Service. The international experts concluded that Poland fulfilled all of recommendations and suggestions received in the 2013 initial IRRS mission. This outstanding success of the follow-up IRRS mission to Poland reaffirms our sincere efforts made in the recent years to strengthen national regulatory and legislative framework. The report of the follow-up mission will be made public in the coming weeks.

Poland has well established nuclear regulatory authority,, that works intensively with the Agency and Member States to achieve regulatory readiness for introduction of nuclear power in Poland. We find especially beneficial and supportive the opportunity to work within Regulatory Cooperation Forum, initiated under umbrella of the Agency.

4.

This year, in October, Poland will host Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation – referred as ARTEMIS. The review will provide an independent international evaluation of the National Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Plan and the national framework for executing country's obligations for safe and sustainable radioactive waste and spent fuel management.

5.

**Madame President, distinguished Delegates,**

Established in 2016 the advisory committee for Deployment of High Temperature Reactor (HTR) completed this year its task and produced final report with conclusions supporting the implementation of HTRs as source of industrial heat.

Currently Ministry of Energy is analyzing plans for launching governmental program aiming at HTR construction and deployment.

Poland also joined as member the IAEA Technical Working Group on Gas Cooled Reactors. .

6.

Poland perceives International Atomic Energy Agency as a core organization that should promote nuclear security. We will be supporting Agency in this endeavor. In the development of the nuclear power programme as well as in other peaceful applications of nuclear energy Poland attaches utmost importance to preserving the highest standards of nuclear security. It will be highlighted by the upcoming Polish chairmanship of the II Preparatory Committee of the Non-proliferation Treaty. The NPT remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Therefore we attach an utmost importance to the

successful outcome of the 2020 NPT review cycle as well as to its ongoing review process. We will follow a progressive approach to nuclear disarmament centered on the NPT and system of relevant international institutions and agreements. Only by strengthening organizations like International Atomic Energy Agency we can truly advance the whole nuclear disarmament agenda. Actions speak louder than words therefore Poland has been working hard for the past few years to strengthen the security of its nuclear facilities. Last year the last part of High-enriched Uranium that was used in our research reactor was removed from the Polish territory. Poland has become country that uses only Low-enriched Uranium (LEU) as a fuel for its research reactor. It could not be possible without international cooperation and our participation in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The successful conversion of the research reactor and removal of a spent HEU fuel is just another proof of my country's commitment to the international rules of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We will continue to support efforts in order to minimize use of High-enriched Uranium in civilian applications.

7.

**Madame President, Dear Delegates,**

Poland has always attached the great importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme, considered as proven mechanism for sharing knowledge, experience and good practices in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy. This year, as in the previous years, we pledge the contribution to Technical Cooperation Fund in full share expected from our country. Poland's priority is to remain committed contributor to the Programme, as well as active counterpart of TC projects, both national and regional.

8.

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the engagement of IAEA staff that cooperates with Poland on different projects aimed to strengthen

national capabilities in nuclear safety and support development of nuclear power programme in Poland.

**Madame President, to conclude**, on behalf of the Polish Government, I am pleased to reiterate that the firm support of our country for the International Atomic Energy Agency activities will continue. At the same time we would like to convey our appreciation to the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Amano, for his impressive work and dedication to duty. In this regard let me express Poland's full support for continuation of his chairmanship in incoming years. Thank you for your attention.