

**SWEDEN**

**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Ambassador Helen Eduards**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

**General Conference**

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Thank you Madame President,

Allow me first to congratulate you on the election as President of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Conference. I also wish to commend Mr Amano for his re-appointment as Director General and begin by reiterating Sweden's full support to the Agency.

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by Estonia on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to make the following national remarks. The full Swedish statement will be made available on the IAEA website.

60 years after the IAEA Statute entered into force the Agency continuously proves, with support from the Member States, its ability to adapt to a world in constant flux. IAEA remains a highly relevant actor on the world's safety and security arena.

Madame President,

The strengthened IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. This year we celebrate 20 years of the Model Additional Protocol, as highlighted in a side event co-sponsored by Japan, France, Australia and Sweden earlier this afternoon.

The Additional Protocol is an indispensable tool for IAEA safeguards, and has, together with the comprehensive safeguards agreement become the current verification standard pursuant to article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We call on those Member States that have not yet done so to bring into force their NPT safeguards agreements and additional protocols without delay and to ensure that their Small Quantities Protocols are in accordance with the current standard. Member States must provide the necessary support so that the Agency can carry out its task of verifying the correctness and completeness of the Member States' declarations. For the efficient and effective use of resources for safeguards verification, we underline the importance for the Agency to retain its staff competence.

We also welcome the IAEA's efforts to apply the State-Level Concept to all Member States with a safeguards agreement in force, as part of the continuing evolution of the global safeguards implementation.

Madame President,

Sweden condemns North Korea's recent nuclear test and ballistic missile launches North Korea's provocative actions constitute a serious challenge to the non-proliferation regime. It is a clear threat

to international peace and security. North Korea must fulfil its international obligations and respect the UN Security Council's resolutions and the principles of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We call on the DPRK to cooperate promptly with the Agency in the complete and effective implementation of the Agency's comprehensive safeguards. We welcome that the Agency maintains its readiness to resume its verification work in the DPRK.

Madame President,

I wish to reiterate our strong support for the IAEA's work in verifying the implementation of the JCPOA agreement. Its implementation will continue to enhance dialogue with Iran and serves to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty. I am pleased to announce that Sweden will make an additional extra-budgetary contribution of 1 million Swedish crowns to this end. We underline the importance of Iran's early ratification of the Additional Protocol.

Madame President,

Sweden has taken yet another step towards a governmental licensing decision on the construction of a repository for spent nuclear fuel. Currently, the court hearings are ongoing in the Land

and Environmental Court outside Stockholm. During this process the application provided by the licensee SKB will be judged by the court according to the Environmental act. During next year the government expects that the ruling of the court and the expert statement of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority according to the Nuclear safety act will be officially handed over to the Government and that starts the Governmental process leading up to the final decision regarding the application.

Sweden has taken additional steps to further develop the level of safety in the Swedish nuclear power plants. The work to implement the National Action Plan following the EU stress test is prioritised. By the end of this year the licensees have to take their decisions on the design and installation of the bunkered independent core cooling system. This is a safety requirement for all Swedish nuclear power plants that are planned to operate after 2020. This system together with the filtered venting systems installed at Swedish nuclear power plants in the late 80s and the comprehensive back fitting programme that was completed in 2015 shows Sweden's commitment to develop nuclear safety in line with the Vienna Declaration as well as with the conclusions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

Sweden emphasises the importance of international cooperation and the development of common approaches for nuclear safety. Sweden urges all contracting parties to this Convention to actively participate and contribute to the success of the review meeting.

Mr President,

Sweden strongly believes that peer review mechanisms contribute to further strengthening nuclear safety and security as well as building confidence.

Last year the IAEA carried out a follow up IPPAS mission in Sweden. It rendered recommendations and suggestions and Sweden highly benefited from its advice.

We encourage other Member States to invite missions on a regular basis to follow up the findings and to generously share the results.

Mr Madame President,

Nuclear science and technology, transmitted through the IAEA, has a significant role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sweden supports the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme which contributes to such diverse fields as human health, food security and water management. We have for example provided voluntary contributions to activities such as the Peaceful

Uses Initiative, in support of water resource management in the Sahel. The success of TC-projects is greatly enhanced if perspectives and needs of project stakeholders, including women, are taken into consideration. Performance indicators are useful tools for the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

Technical cooperation is also an important element when fostering nuclear safety and security. Here, I wish to mention our long-standing cooperation with Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine in both nuclear safety and security.

Madame President,

Sweden attaches great importance to gender equality at the IAEA secretariat as well as gender mainstreaming in the Agency's programs and activities. We believe that the full and equal participation of men and women, including at the highest levels, remains essential and will benefit the Agency and its Member States. We support DG Amano's and the Secretariat's efforts in recruiting more women to management positions in the Agency and encourage IAEA and its Member States to hasten progress in this area.

I thank you Madame President.