

**2017 IAEA General Conference
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery
Secretary Rick Perry**

Thank you.

To begin, I would like to share a message from President Trump:

I extend my greetings to the delegates of the 61st International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference.

For the past six decades, the IAEA member states have made great strides in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology and developing nonproliferation norms. Strong partnerships between our nations and respect for these norms continue to be vital to achieving our shared goals of harnessing nuclear energy and ensuring a more peaceful world. The United States remains committed to working closely with the IAEA in establishing nuclear security guidelines, preventing the loss or theft of nuclear materials, and putting an end to the threat of nuclear terrorism—one of the greatest challenges to international security.

The IAEA serves a critical role in monitoring nuclear programs around the world. The United States supports these efforts and strongly encourages the IAEA to exercise its full authorities to verify Iran's adherence to each and every nuclear-related commitment under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We will not accept a weakly enforced or inadequately monitored deal. In North Korea, the regime's actions and threats of nuclear terror should be a concern for all nations. The United States continues to consider all options to address the North Korean threat to international peace and security, and would welcome the IAEA's return to North Korea should that state finally choose a path of peace instead of nuclear provocation.

Together, the IAEA member states can work together to build a world safe from nuclear threats and free to pursue the peaceful use of nuclear technology. On behalf of the American people, I wish all those gathered the best for a successful conference.

I am honored to lead the U.S. delegation to the 61st IAEA General Conference.

It is a great privilege to address the plenary today, and I would like to highlight that a full-length U.S. national statement will be available on the website of the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna.

The IAEA was established 60 years ago to accelerate the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity...

...while supporting global efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

Six decades later, the responsibility to guard against the malicious use of atomic energy is no less urgent.

Safeguards

Safeguards, a fundamental element of nonproliferation, are essential to achieving the “fullest possible exchange” of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Among its many other safeguards responsibilities, the IAEA is entrusted with monitoring Iran’s nuclear program.

It is imperative that the IAEA exercise its full authority in this area and verify Iran’s adherence to all of its Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear commitments.

The United States is committed to providing resources to support this mission.

Noncompliance, including by North Korea and Syria, is a serious matter that must be addressed.

We must continue to hold Syria accountable for its past construction of a clandestine nuclear reactor...

...and reinforce the authority of IAEA as a critical element in the international strategy to contain...

...and walk back North Korea's nuclear program.

Compliance with nonproliferation obligations is essential...

...as is strengthened verification, including implementation of safeguards at the state-level to assure the absence of undeclared nuclear activities.

A comprehensive safeguards agreement combined with an Additional Protocol has become the *de facto* international standard, which we encourage all states to adopt.

Security

As we are all aware, terrorism does not recognize international boundaries.

In order to combat terrorist threats effectively, we must work together to continually improve nuclear security on a global level...

...and help ensure that all nuclear material is protected from theft or misuse.

The countries represented in this room have made significant commitments to nuclear security.

It is time we turn these commitments into actions.

All of us in this room should subscribe to and implement the Joint Statements that were highlighted at the December 2016 IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security.

These Joint Statements describe specific steps that committed countries will take to prevent nuclear terrorism...

...including countering nuclear smuggling, mitigating insider threats, and protecting nuclear material in transit.

We will also have an opportunity to gather in Vienna later this year for a conference focusing on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities.

The United States strongly supports universal adherence to the Convention.

The Convention serves as the only legally binding international instrument in the area of physical protection of nuclear material...

...and we encourage your participation in the November conference.

Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

In order for the peaceful use of nuclear energy to flourish worldwide, we must address a third and vital element...safety. Nuclear safety, enhanced through the Convention on Nuclear Safety and other legal instruments, is key.

As President Trump highlighted, the United States is a leader in promoting nuclear power and other peaceful applications across the globe.

We have made over \$320 million in *voluntary* contributions to the Agency's work in this area since 2010.

I am also pleased to announce that the United States is contributing another \$3.1 million in new funding to renovate the IAEA's Nuclear Applications Labs at Seibersdorf, bringing total U.S. contributions for this effort to over \$15.6 million.

We make these commitments because we understand the broad benefits of nuclear power and other nuclear applications.

In the United States, nuclear energy is an essential source of safe, clean, reliable, and affordable power.

It provides hundreds of thousands of competitive, high-paying jobs, and our nuclear industry is a worldwide leader in technology and safety.

To further enhance public acceptance of nuclear power and facilitate international civil nuclear cooperation, we need to agree to common legal frameworks, such as the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

By showing our commitment to a predictable and reasonable legal structure, we will underscore with the public our commitment to safety.

Conclusion

The United States remains committed to strengthening the IAEA to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

I urge all Member States here to recommit themselves to this same goal.

Thank you.