

IAEA General Conference 2014

Statement by Norway

Mr President,

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference. I would like to assure you of Norway's full cooperation in making it a success. My delegation also welcomes the new IAEA members. We are confident that they will make a positive contribution to the Agency and we assure you of our firm support. Let me also use this opportunity to commend Director General Amano and his staff for their dedication, professionalism and excellent work.

Mr President,

Disarmament and non-proliferation are and will remain cornerstones of Norwegian foreign policy. If we are to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, we need nuclear disarmament and a strong and universal Non-Proliferation Treaty. We remain committed to the NPT and to working towards a successful Review Conference in May next year.

The Agency's system of **safeguards** is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Norway commends the Agency on the way it is implementing its safeguards mandate and on its progress in developing the State-Level Concept. Further, we remain convinced that the system of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, combined with Additional Protocols, is the appropriate international verification standard pursuant to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we call for universal accession to and implementation of both instruments.

However, as we all know, these are **challenging times for the non-proliferation regime**:

With regard to **Iran's nuclear programme** and the related discussions by the Board of Governors last week, the Agency is still unable to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is being used for peaceful activities. We welcome the on-going dialogue between the IAEA and Iran, but progress is slow. It is time for Iran to step up and engage fully

with the Agency in order to resolve all outstanding issues and restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

Let me underline Norway's full support to the political dialogue between the P5+1 and Iran and the on-going efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement by 24 November. Norway has pledged 3.65 million NOK (USD 570 000/EURO 440 000) to support the IAEA's pivotal role in monitoring and verifying the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action.

As for **Syria**, the Board of Governors has reported Syria's non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Norway strongly urges Syria to comply fully with the Board Resolution of June 2011, and also to conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Norway is deeply concerned about the **DPRK's** on-going defiance of the international community as it continues to pursue its nuclear weapons programme. Its declaration as a nuclear weapon state is unacceptable, and its statements on expanding and modernising its nuclear capabilities are deeply worrying. The DPRK must refrain from any further provocations. Further, we urge the DPRK to comply with the norms of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Non-compliance clearly demonstrates the need for a robust and effective, legally binding non-proliferation regime. Norway reiterates the importance of the early entry into force of the **Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty**. We call on all States – especially the Annex 2 countries – to sign and ratify this vital Convention.

Our common challenges are not limited to non-proliferation:

There is an urgent need for improvements in **safety and emergency preparedness**. Nuclear safety is a national responsibility, but the accident in Fukushima reminded us yet again that nuclear accidents are never just a national concern; they can only be dealt with through international cooperation.

In our view, it is imperative to improve not only nuclear safety, but also emergency preparedness and response. We must develop both the IAEA's and our own national capacities in this area. And we must enhance coordination in order to make effective use of all existing expertise. We must continue to seek universal adherence to the nuclear safety conventions, update or revise them as necessary, and improve implementation.

My delegation urges the IAEA and all its Member States to continue their efforts to fulfil the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. We look forward to the continued implementation of the recommendations in the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies.

Nuclear accidents do not respect borders. Neither does terrorism. While the commitment to **nuclear security** has been confirmed at the highest political level, progress is slow in adhering to the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Norway calls upon all states to sign and ratify the global conventions on nuclear security and to cooperate with the Agency in their implementation.

Norway acknowledges that IAEA is the keystone of international nuclear security cooperation. My country also took part in the successful Nuclear Security Summit in the Hague this March, and we look forward to continuing this important process in Washington in 2016. During the Summit, Prime Minister Solberg launched a joint Norwegian-Swedish initiative for assisting Ukraine in improving the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear installations. Further, Norway and the US have recently signed a bilateral nuclear non-proliferation agreement. The first project under this agreement will assist Ukraine in securing radioactive material and strengthening border controls.

We also support nuclear security through international forums such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. We provide funding for the Nuclear Security Fund and for work to ensure full implementation of UN Security Council resolution

1540. I am pleased to announce that Norway recently completed its ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Minimising the use of highly enriched uranium remains a priority for my Government. While important progress in HEU minimisation has already been made in the civilian sector, we need to address the justification for continued use of HEU – and the security concerns related to this material – in both civilian and military applications. Mr President, let me assure you of Norway's continued efforts in this regard.

Norway remains committed to **multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle**. My delegation appreciates the Secretariat's work in developing the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Reserve and we look forward to its realisation.

Mr President,

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy go far beyond producing electricity. Safe water supplies, better crops, nuclear diagnostics and medicine, energy planning and pest control are just a few of the areas where the Agency provides assistance. Norway supports the IAEA's technical cooperation programme; we pay our full share and welcome other countries' experts to come to Norway on scientific visits. Norway reiterates that the IAEA can make a positive contribution to the efforts to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals in close partnership with other UN organisations.

We fully support Article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we respect every nation's sovereign right to choose its own energy mix – as long as the highest standards of safety and security are complied with. Given the likely growth of the use of nuclear energy worldwide, we face challenges in terms of an increased risk of accidents, the need for safety and emergency preparedness, nuclear security implications and non-proliferation issues. Hence, we must **make sure that the Agency is equipped to take on these and future challenges**.

Mr President,

The Agency's role in strengthening nuclear non-proliferation, in guaranteeing the safety and security of nuclear energy, and in advancing nuclear technology to the benefit of all

cannot be overestimated. But the Agency will only perform as well as we allow it to. It is crucial that the Agency is properly equipped and has the authority, the expertise, and the resources needed to fulfil its mandate. Funding for statutory IAEA activities is still inadequate. The Agency's regular budget must increase in proportion to its tasks in order to ensure a sustainable effort in the field of nuclear safety and security. Norway has provided substantively to the Nuclear Security Fund, to the ECAS Project and to IAEA's work to strengthen safety in developing countries embarking on nuclear power programmes.

My delegation believes it is important for the Agency to prepare for potential **verification tasks** under nuclear disarmament or arms control agreements, as set out in the Medium-Term Strategy 2012-17. We support and look forward to the implementation of the strategy in the years to come.

To conclude, Mr President,

Nuclear safety and nuclear security cannot be dealt with in isolation. This work must also involve non-proliferation and disarmament. Nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation are global concerns that must be dealt with in a coordinated manner in order to minimise the various inherent risks of nuclear power. This organisation is crucial to achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful, safe and secure uses of nuclear energy.

The IAEA must remain the primary instrument of the international community both to ensure that nuclear materials are used in the safest and securest way possible – and, not least, to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Thank you, Mr President.