

## IAEA General Conference 2015

### Statement by Norway

President,

I would like to congratulate the President and the Vice President of this year's General Conference, and can 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 work of the Agency. Let me also commend the Director General Amano and his staff for their dedication, professionalism and excellent work.

Madam President,

**Disarmament and non-proliferation** remain key issues in 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 need real commitment, and we need to make full use of the opportunities and the tools at our disposal.

The Agency's system of **safeguards** is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. A standardised, universal regime is the best guarantee against nuclear proliferation. We therefore call for universal accession to the NPT and for all Member States to conclude 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. This mandate is crucial for keeping up with the constant developments in the nuclear energy use worldwide, and for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards without compromising the results. This is particularly relevant at a time when many Member States are facing funding restraints. In Norway, we have already applied the principles of the State-Level Concept for more than a decade.

Madam President,

Norway welcomes the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between the P5 +1 and Iran. If properly implemented, this agreement is very good news for the international non-proliferation regime, and it also has the potential to strengthen the international safeguards regime.

The Board of Governors' decision to give the Director General the crucial task of implementing the necessary verification and monitoring measures reflects the key role the Agency plays in safeguarding the international non-proliferation regime. With our latest pledge of EUR 200 000 this month, Norway will be providing a total of EUR 1.5 million euro for the implementation of these verification activities in Iran. We can assure you that we will continue to shoulder our responsibility in this regard.

Under the agreement, Iran has committed itself to addressing all of the Agency's concerns, including the possible military dimension. Full Iranian cooperation with the IAEA and the inspectors will be crucial for the Agency to make a satisfactory assessment of all outstanding issues. With this in view, we stress again the need to ratify and implement the Additional Protocol.

Madam President,

Notwithstanding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, several challenges remain for the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

**DPRK's** non-adherence to the norms of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a matter of grave concern. Its declaration as a nuclear weapon state is unacceptable, and its statements on its alleged need to bolster its nuclear deterrence are unjustified and deeply worrying. The leadership of the DPRK must refrain from any further provocations.

As for **Syria**, the Board of Governors has reported the country's non-compliance with its safeguards agreement to the Security Council and the UN General Assembly. Syria should, as soon as possible, comply with the board resolution of June 2011 and bring an additional protocol into force.

Madam President,

Our common challenges are not limited to non-proliferation.

There is still need for improvements in **safety and emergency preparedness**.

We must develop both the Agency's and our national capacities in this area, and we must enhance coordination in order to make effective use of existing expertise. We must continue to seek universal adherence to the conventions relating to nuclear safety, update or revise them as necessary, and improve implementation.

My delegation greatly appreciates the release of the Director General's report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the efforts made by Member States to follow up the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The adoption in February of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety was an encouraging sign. 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.

The IAEA Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident is a key convention in the realm of nuclear safety. We also value our continued close bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation in this regard, and we are pleased to announce that our two countries today signed a joint protocol for bilateral notification mechanisms in the event of a nuclear accident here in Vienna at the margins of this conference.

As a coastal nation, transport safety continues to be an issue of high importance for Norway. We would like to express our appreciation for the successful table-top meeting between coastal and shipping states on 17 June this year, on the use of the best practice guidelines for voluntary and confidential communications on the transport of radioactive materials at sea. We look forward to discussions on how this important tool can be further developed.

Madam President,

Nuclear accidents do not respect borders. Neither does terrorism. Norway has often expressed regret at the slow progress in adherence to the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. This amendment together with the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Terrorism are key instruments for nuclear security. We urge all states to sign and ratify these instruments. We are pleased to see that the US recently brought these instruments into force.

Minimising the use of highly enriched uranium remains a priority for Norway. While important progress in HEU minimisation has already been made in the civilian sector, we need to address the continued use of HEU – and the security concerns related to this material – in all applications. Norway will continue its engagement in this important issue.

Recently there have been several examples of serious security incidents involving highly radioactive sources. Alternative technologies exist or are under development. For example, all blood irradiators in Norway are now based on alternative technology. More progress could be

made on reducing the use of highly active radioactive sources, and the opportunity to use alternative technologies with less proliferation risk should be more widely considered.

Norway remains committed to the **multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle**. I would like to congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Agency for signing the host state agreement to set up the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Ulba. As one of the sponsors of the LEU Bank, we look forward to its realisation.

Norway acknowledges that the IAEA, with its unique expertise and 165 Member States, is the cornerstone of international nuclear security cooperation.

The Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague in March 2014 reaffirmed the international community's commitment to **nuclear security**. We look forward to continuing this important work in Washington next year.

We are also supporting nuclear security through international forums such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership. We provide funding for the Nuclear Security Fund and for work to ensure full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540.

Madam President,

**Peaceful uses of nuclear technology** extend far beyond electricity production. 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 vital 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.

The IAEA will also have a role to play in achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals to be formally adopted in New York next week. At least 13 of the 17 SDGs can be directly linked to the activities of the Agency.

We fully recognise 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 adequate safety measures and emergency preparedness, nuclear security implications and non-proliferation issues.

Madam President,

The Agency's role in strengthening nuclear non-proliferation, in guaranteeing the safety and security of nuclear energy production, and in advancing nuclear technology to the benefit of all cannot be overestimated. The Agency will perform as well as we, the members, allow it to. It is therefore crucial that the Agency is properly equipped and has the authority, the expertise, and the resources needed to fulfil its important mandate. Funding for statutory IAEA activities is still inadequate. The Agency's regular budget should be increased in proportion to its tasks. This is important in order to ensure sustainable efforts in the field of nuclear safety and security, and at the same time make the most efficient use of the Agency's resources. Over a number of years, Norway has provided substantial support for the Nuclear Security Fund, the ECAS Project, the IAEA's efforts to strengthen safety in developing countries embarking on nuclear power programmes, and for the important work on emergency preparedness by the Incident and Emergency Centre.

Norway underlines the importance 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 the strategy and look forward to its implementation in the years to come. The successful conclusion in May 2014 of the joint Norway–UK exercise on the supervised disarmament of a nuclear warhead illustrates how robust verification mechanisms can be developed while at the same time addressing the concerns of nuclear weapon states. The International Partnership on Nuclear Disarmament Verification builds on experience gained in this field, and we are pleased to see that an international coalition – including both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states – is taking form. Norway is pleased to be hosting the second plenary of the partnership in November.

Thank you, Madam President.