

**Secretary Ernest Moniz
2015 IAEA General Conference
September 14, 2015
Written Remarks for the Record**

Thank you, Ambassador Formica. Congratulations on your election as President of this Conference. I also want to thank Director General Amano for his outstanding leadership.

I am honored to lead the U.S. delegation to this year's General Conference, and I want to first share this message from President Obama:

FINAL POTUS STATEMENT:

I send greetings as you gather in Vienna for the 59th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference. This conference demonstrates the international community's support for the invaluable role of the IAEA, and I thank you for your efforts.

The United States remains committed to pursuing a world without nuclear weapons. That is why we have worked with our international partners for decades to establish and strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime—encouraging peaceful uses of nuclear

technology, while preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. The IAEA has been at the heart of these efforts, constantly adapting to new challenges, developing and promoting international standards for nuclear safety and security, and crafting state-of-the-art approaches to nuclear safeguards. The Agency's integrity and capacity to undertake its technical responsibilities deserve our constant support and protection so that the IAEA can continue to contribute to global security.

This year, with the conclusion of negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with our P5+1 partners, the European Union, and Iran, we demonstrated once again that it is possible to settle difficult nonproliferation issues diplomatically. Under the interim deal that allowed comprehensive negotiations to take place over the past 2 years, the IAEA played a key part in building the necessary confidence to complete the long-term deal by verifying Iran's implementation of its nuclear commitments. The IAEA's role is central to the verification regime established in the JCPOA.

Next year, I look forward to hosting the fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, where one of our primary objectives will be the strengthening of the global nuclear security architecture. The IAEA, which already contributes extensively to global nuclear security efforts, will play an even more prominent role after the summit as we further

coordinate nuclear security activities among nations, institutions, and initiatives.

As you join together in Vienna and work to shape a better future across the globe, I call upon all Member States to strengthen the Agency's ability to ensure nuclear programs are peaceful and secure. I wish you all the best for a productive General Conference.

End of quote.

NONPROLIFERATION AND THE IRAN DEAL

President Formica, we are gathered in Vienna at an hour when the world's attention is focused on the International Atomic Energy Agency. After two demanding years of tireless negotiations, the United States, Germany, France, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Iran reached agreement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. Shortly after the negotiations concluded in Vienna two months ago today, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2231 endorsing the JCPOA. This international endorsement

represents our shared commitment to upholding global nonproliferation norms – and our collective determination to enforce them.

The JCPOA is unique in my experience, in both its structure and the tasks it commits to undertake. It assumes long-term engagement built around a step-by-step approach with reciprocal commitments among the parties. Most important, it memorializes in the Preamble the affirmation that “under no circumstances will Iran ever seek, develop or acquire nuclear weapons.”

In a letter to President Obama, twenty nine scientific leaders deeply familiar with nuclear issues wrote, “This is an innovative agreement, with much more stringent constraints than any previously negotiated nonproliferation framework”

These innovative and unique aspects of the deal include a fixed time frame for providing access to undeclared sites and full uranium supply chain surveillance. In addition, Iran has reinforced its pledge to never seek, develop or acquire nuclear weapons by agreeing to not engage in the development of key nuclear weaponization-related capabilities.

Another bold and creative solution is the resolution of concerns over plutonium production from the Arak heavy water reactor. The P5+1 and

Iran have committed to supporting a modernization project at Arak that will redesign the reactor as a multi-purpose research reactor fueled with low enriched uranium and plutonium production minimization. This will provide Iran with a modern research tool for peaceful purposes and simultaneously address international concerns about the potential accumulation of plutonium. This concern is further addressed by Iran's commitment to ship all spent fuel out of Iran for the reactor's life.

The IAEA is already playing a critical role in implementing the nuclear deal negotiated between the P5+1 and Iran. The JCPOA requires that Iran cooperate with the IAEA by October 15 on the Agency's investigation into Possible Military Dimensions of Iran's previous program. The IAEA will submit its report to the Board of Governors in December.

Although it was not the goal of the negotiations, the JCPOA provides an opportunity to discuss the broader safeguards regime in the future.

The United States commends the IAEA's ongoing efforts to address all present and past concerns regarding Iran's nuclear program. We also welcome the IAEA's essential and expansive role in verifying Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA in the future. Success will draw upon the support of all Member States.

We know that the IAEA's ability to successfully implement this deal hinges on the agency receiving sufficient funding to take on this complex task. We call on the international community to contribute to this request to ensure that the IAEA has the resources it needs to monitor this crucial agreement.

In addition to regular and extra-budgetary contributions that the United States provides to the IAEA annually, we are proud to partner with the IAEA on a range of additional technical support for its nonproliferation activities. The IAEA uses advanced monitoring technologies in their inspections work, many developed at the U.S Department of Energy's national labs.

SECURITY

Of course, nonproliferation is not the only issue that we must address. Mr. President, the threat of nuclear terrorism remains one of the great dangers of our time. To combat this threat, we call on all Member States to support a strengthened global nuclear security architecture built on legally binding instruments, multilateral institutions, voluntary collectives, and national actions.

To build further momentum in strengthening the global nuclear architecture, the United States will host the fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC next spring. The previous Summits reaffirmed the central role of the IAEA in global nuclear security, and U.S. commitment to support and bolster the IAEA's nuclear security capabilities.

I also am pleased to note that the United States submitted its instrument of ratification for the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) to Director General Amano on July 31, 2015. In addition, we plan to deposit our instrument of ratification for the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) with the U.N. very soon. The United States strongly urges all countries that have not yet done so to join and fully implement these agreements.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mr. President, with more reactors coming online, it is increasingly important for regulators and operators to discuss and cooperate on issues related to nuclear safety. There has been a notable decline in participation in the Convention on Nuclear Safety's peer review process. We encourage current Contracting Parties to join the Convention and

fully participate in the peer review process. We also appreciate the Director General's report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

It is also important to handle liability issues through mechanisms based on treaty relations. This year we reached a significant milestone with the entry into force of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, or CSC.

The United States is committed to support the IAEA International Conference on Global Emergency Preparedness and Response that will take place next month here in Vienna and encourage other Member states to attend.

ENERGY

As we approach the upcoming Paris climate negotiations, countries must put forward ambitious climate commitments. The threat of climate change calls for global responses, including expanded use of nuclear power to produce the electricity needed to sustain rising standards of living of the world's growing population.

President Obama has made clear that nuclear energy is an important part of our "all-of-the-above" energy strategy. In partnership with our

nuclear industry, the U.S. Government is supporting the deployment of reactors with passive safety features both in the United States and around the world.

The U.S. Government has partnered with U.S. industry to support the licensing and technical support process of SMRs – and we expect the first SMR to be deployed within the next decade.

The U.S. Department of Energy also has issued \$8.3 billion in loan guarantees to support the construction of two passively safe reactors at the Plant Vogtle near Augusta, Georgia.

By incorporating passive safety systems into SMRs and the large Generation III designs, we aim to provide a broader set of options for safe, reliable nuclear energy. At the same time, we also are studying security and safeguards aspects of new designs.

With nearly 440 operating nuclear reactors generating electricity worldwide, and approximately 70 reactors under construction, and many more planned, it is clear that there continues to be strong global interest in peaceful nuclear energy.

This means that countries with little or no experience will face complex tasks of managing nuclear facilities, as well as protecting and safeguarding nuclear material, and safely managing spent fuel.

That is why we support the important work of the IAEA to help its Member States build the necessary infrastructure, as well as the efforts of the Nuclear Energy Agency, the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation, and the Generation IV International Forum, to ensure the continued safe, secure and sustainable use of nuclear energy.

PEACEFUL USES

Finally, Mr. President, we strongly support the Agency's efforts to help interested Member States to use the diverse applications of nuclear science and technology to meet their national development needs. IAEA programs have contributed directly to the addressing the Millennium Development Goals, and will be equally relevant to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The IAEA's Technical Cooperation Program remains the core of this effort, and deserves our full support. In addition, the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative, or PUI, is an essential source of voluntary funding. The United States is pleased to be one of 19 IAEA Member States that, along

with the European Union, have collectively contributed over \$77 million in monetary or in-kind contributions to the PUI since its inception in 2010.

During the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the United States announced an additional \$50 million contribution to support the PUI over the next five years. The United States urges all countries, groups of countries, and organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the PUI.

I am also pleased to announce that the United States has donated another \$3 million to the IAEA's Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf (ReNuAL) project. This fulfills our pledge made at the NPT Review Conference for \$2 million. Altogether, the United States has now contributed approximately \$5.5 million to ReNuAL, and we hope that this will serve as a catalyst to encourage further donations from other IAEA Member States so that construction can proceed quickly and efficiently.

Mr. President, the United States commends the IAEA and Kazakhstan on signing the Host State Agreement for the IAEA LEU Bank, which is an important element of our collective peaceful uses and nonproliferation efforts.

CONCLUSION

Mr. President, as we look ahead, our great challenge is to support global development while adapting to become more responsible stewards of our future. Safe, secure, and peaceful nuclear technology will be an important part of addressing this challenge.

We will continue to look to the IAEA to provide the necessary technical expertise to meet our shared goals, and the Agency's financial resources, political support, and legal authorities must be commensurate with the task at hand. We urge all Member States to contribute toward that end.

Thank you.