

GERMANY

Thorsten Herdan

*Director-General, Energy Policy Department
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy*

58th IAEA General Conference

23.09.2014

Wien

Mister President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I.

Mr. President,
on behalf of my government, I
congratulate you on your election as
President of the fifty-eighth IAEA
General Conference.

Allow me to start by associating
myself with the statement of the
European Union,
which I fully endorse.

I welcome the four new members of the IAEA, the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu.

II.

Mr. President,

The IAEA plays a central role in nearly every question that arises in the context of nuclear technology and Germany will continue to be a constructive partner of the Secretariat and all Member States.

Following the accident in Fukushima three years ago,

Germany decided to phase out of nuclear power by the end of 2022.

At the same time Germany respects the sovereign right of every country to choose its own energy mix, whether with or without nuclear energy.

Our energy policy goals are very ambitious.

In future, Germany's energy supply is to be based predominantly on renewable sources.

Transforming the energy system consists of three pillars:

Increasing the share of renewable energies, increasing energy efficiency, and making future grids more flexible.

- Switching to renewables is cost-efficient and environmentally friendly
- Increasing energy efficiency comprises both reducing overall consumption and improving efficiency.
- Grids need to be enlarged and more flexible to allow for the integration of electricity from renewable energy sources.

However Germany will continue to be involved in nuclear power for decades.

We will still use nuclear power plants in Germany for nearly another decade, until 2022. At the same time, we are aware of the cross-border relevance of the safety of nuclear power plants abroad. Thus safe nuclear technology will remain highly important for Germany.

In addition, Germany will have to focus on the back-end of the fuel-cycle. Closed down reactors will have to be decommissioned and dismantled. And treatment and disposal of the waste will take several more decades.

Beyond power production the use of nuclear technology in other areas in particular in industry, medicine, food and research will further increase and Germany will keep working hard to maintain a leading position.

Innovative high-tech components and materials for nuclear applications are developed and produced in Germany. Fundamental research, material development, medicine, energy storage and semi-conductor production are just some of the fields for nuclear applications.

III.

Mr. President,

Budget negotiations are always important.

As you know, Germany has been advocating a nominal zero-growth line in all international organisations in order to appropriately balance public expenditure in times of continuing global financial uncertainties and additional budgetary burdens.

In the end, taking into account the specific role of the IAEA, we were able to accept that the regular budget for 2015 will foresee a 1,1% compensation of inflation.

Mr. President,

Beyond the regular budget Germany contributes to specific needs of the IAEA:

Since 2011 Germany donated around five mio Euros to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund and more than 5 million Euros for the ECAS project to modernize the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory in Seibersdorf.

Now the Agency is promoting a new and sophisticated investment project called ReNuAL [Renovation of IAEA Nuclear Application Laboratories].

Germany supports this initiative to modernize and renovate the laboratories of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications in Seibersdorf.

The German Permanent Representative is co-chairing the relevant group of Member States. And I am pleased to inform you today that Germany is considering to support this project with a financial contribution later this year.

Mr. President,

Germany attaches considerable importance to measures to improve transparency, efficiency and effectiveness,

not only related to the budget, but in particular related to the management of the Agency, and we appreciate the continued efforts of the Director General in this regard.

IV.

Mr. President,

I would like to underline the extraordinary importance of effective and efficient IAEA-safeguards.

That is why Germany funds one of the oldest national support programmes for IAEA safeguards. This autumn the German Support Programme is to celebrate its 36th Anniversary.

It contributed successfully to state-of-the-art verification methods and techniques and provided training, expert advice and consultancy to the IAEA Secretariat and Member States.

In addition, the research centre Jülich is a candidate for membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency's Network of Analytical Laboratories [NWAL].

Mr. President,

As for IAEA Safeguards worldwide, beyond the IAEA safeguards agreements in force, 124 States also had an Additional Protocol in place.

For these States the Agency can provide assurances that there are no indications of undeclared nuclear material or activities in the respective State.

We welcome the fact that three more countries have joined this group since the last General Conference.

And we urge all other States that have not yet done so to enter into an Additional Protocol, too.

In the light of the continuing growth in verification demand worldwide and the need for cost-effectiveness we welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to improve the implementation of safeguards.

At the same time we support the further evolution of individual state-level approaches in a structured and objective manner, considering both the technical situation and the legal and institutional structures within a State.

This should continue also to more most cost-effective safeguards measures within each state.

V.

Mr. President,

Referring to nuclear safety cooperation between regulators and a worldwide system of mutual controls have proven to be an important pillar in the international nuclear safety regime.

Valuable tools to promote these aspects are the relevant three Conventions together with self-assessments and international peer-reviews conducted in cooperation with the IAEA known as integrated regulatory review service (IRRS) missions. The revision of the IRRS Guidelines is highly appreciated as it leads to more transparency as requested by the Nuclear Safety Action Plan. Furthermore, Germany particularly welcomes the Agency's activities in the framework of the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS), the Safety Standard Committees and the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Action Plan.

We are looking forward to the presentation of the IAEA Fukushima Report by the end of the year.

Germany has actively supported all these activities and will continue to do so in the future.

VI.

Referring to nuclear security, my delegation highly appreciates the Agency's activities in particular with regard to efforts made to encourage States to ratify the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM, the most important instrument for enhancing nuclear security worldwide.

Germany welcomes the Agency's efforts to implement the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Nuclear Security 2013, by preparing and organizing the "International Conference on Computer Security in a Nuclear World", to be held in June 2015. Thus, awareness of the growing threat of computer based attacks and their potential impact on nuclear safety and security will be raised, the establishment of guidance on all levels of the nuclear security series promoted and the application of effective computer security measures will be fostered.

Mr. President,

Referring to high activity sources we commit to working jointly with France, Netherlands and the USA, in close consultation with the IAEA, to establish a roadmap of actions and cooperation in the next two years to strengthen the international framework, support alternatives, and enhancing efforts the Ad hoc Group of States that are Major Suppliers of Radioactive Sources.

VII.

Mr. President,

Once again I would like to underline that Germany greatly appreciates the valuable assistance that the Agency's

Technical Cooperation Programme provides to Member States in areas like health – especially cancer treatment –, water management, agriculture and environmental protection.

We will continue to support the Agency's efforts in this regard. One aspect is a support for ReNuAL and we will continue to try to increase cooperation in concrete projects.

VIII.

Mr. President,
The International Project on Innovative Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) was established in 2000.

We commend the efforts of the INPRO team, in coordination with other international initiatives, to serve as an essential forum for exchange on national approaches to nuclear infrastructure, emphasising the importance of long term strategic planning, sustainability and global dialogue.

IX.

Mr. President,
the implementation of Multilateral Approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle remains an important task. The establishment of the IAEA LEU bank appears to be a very challenging task, especially with regard to operation,

safeguards and the future operational costs. However, we would like to stress that the Board of Governors agreed that the LEU bank must not affect the proper functioning of the nuclear fuel market.

X.

Mr. President,
the next Review Conference of the NPT is foreseen 2015 in New York, Germany is convinced that we need to see progress in all three pillars of the NPT: Disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use. The detailed, forward-looking 2010-NPT Action Plan has served us well as a yardstick to measure headway achieved.

And, from a German perspective, this action Plan could be part of a renewed consensus in 2015. In this context, Germany regrets that the Conference on a Middle East free of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Means of Delivery has not yet taken place.

XI.

Mr President,
regarding the dispute about Iran's nuclear programme, the Joint Plan of Action agreed by the E3+3 and Iran last year in Geneva remains an important step towards a lasting solution. Having said that, the scope of Iran's nuclear programme,

including enrichment and heavy water-related activities, is still a matter of grave concern to the international community.

We therefore reiterate our demand that Iran fully cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency and provides the necessary transparency the IAEA has long since demanded. A serious effort to resolve all measures under the Framework for Co-operation is vital to clear all doubts on Iran's past nuclear activities.

While the E3+3 and Iran have made tangible progress towards a comprehensive agreement there are still significant differences on key issues.

We continue to offer Iran comprehensive cooperation. It is now up to Iran to take the strategic decision to limit its nuclear programme significantly and to agree to corresponding transparency measures to help restore mutual trust and confidence. Reaching an agreement by 24 November, one year after the Joint Plan of Action, is crucial.

XII.

Mr. President,
North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes remain a threat to regional and international security.

Proliferation to and from North Korea is alarming. We call upon all states to strictly comply with their obligations under the UN Security Council Resolutions and to clearly signal Pyongyang that nuclear brinkmanship will not be tolerated.

XIII.

Mr. President,

To sum up my remarks:

It is obvious that nuclear technologies need intensive international collaboration and oversight.

We are grateful for the successful work of the IAEA.

And we look forward to continuing our constructive cooperation with the Secretariat and with all Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.