

Statement on behalf of

Hungary

Delivered by

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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honour for me to speak to you today.

Let me congratulate you, Mr. President, for being elected to preside over the 58th IAEA General Conference.

I would like to join others in greeting the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu as new members of the Agency.

First of all, I would like to reiterate that Hungary fully supports the statement made earlier by Italy on behalf of the EU.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

In Accordance with the national energy strategy adopted by the Hungarian Government in 2011, Hungary is strongly committed to rely on nuclear energy.

In October 2013 the Paks Nuclear Power Plant has submitted its request to the regulatory body to grant the license for Unit 2 of the NPP beyond its designed lifetime. The Authority will decide on the application before the end of this year.

To rely on nuclear energy on the long run the government signed a cooperation agreement with the Russian Federation in order to maintain the generating capacity of the Paks NPP by building new units at the Paks site.

The intergovernmental agreement was signed in January this year.

The financial background of the new construction is assured by a loan contract between the Parties.

In order to achieve the goals defined in the agreement the government appointed a government commissioner to ensure the smooth implementation of the construction and commissioning of the new units at the Paks site.

Here I wish to underline that the Agency's work to enhance the capabilities of the Member States in the use of nuclear energy also contributes to global carbon emission reduction.

Mr President,

Now I wish to speak about nuclear safety measures taken in Hungary.

Our long term National Action Plan on Nuclear Safety is valid until 2018, and includes proposals by the regulatory body to amend the legal framework for the use of nuclear energy to meet post-Fukushima safety requirements.

We welcome the excellent work of the Agency related to the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. Let me reassure you of our full support in the implementation of the Action plan.

I would like to inform you that next year Hungary will host an Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission.

The regulatory body has facilitated the self-assessment of all involved parties, and is in the process of producing the required report for the mission to be conducted in May 2015.

The Paks NPP has requested the Agency to carry out an Operational Safety Review Team mission that is due in a month, to assess the safe operation of the plant.

We are confident that the mission will confirm: the safety of the operation of the NPP meets the relevant international standards.

Hungary took part in the 6th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

We were pleased that our national report and our answers to the questions addressed to us in connection with nuclear safety were well received by the contracting parties.

We believe that the Convention is a very useful tool to take stock of safety practices and safety culture and for considering proposals designed for the further improvement of nuclear safety.

Hungary was among the States that supported the convening of a Diplomatic Conference in 2015 to consider the amendment of the CNS proposed by Switzerland.

Mr. President,

Hungary has reached an important milestone a few weeks ago by completing the elimination of the consequences of the 2003 fuel incident.

In August this year, in accordance with EU regulations and transportation safety requirements, the casks with the damaged fuel safely arrived at the Mayak site in Russia for further processing.

No more physical action is required at the Paks site, however the lessons learned must be fully incorporated in the everyday operation and in the safety supervision of the NPP.

Mr. President,

Hungary is strongly committed to enhance the global efforts in the field of nuclear security.

We welcome the recent announcement by the Director General that the next IAEA international conference will be held in December 2016 on this topic.

We are also actively participating in the Nuclear Security Summits and look forward to start preparations for the fourth Summit in the US from next month.

As we reported at the last General Conference an International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission was successfully conducted in Hungary last year.

We are on schedule with the necessary measures to improve our physical protection system according to the suggestions made by the reviewers.

In addition, we are working on the active implementation of our relevant cooperation agreement with the Agency on matters of nuclear security.

We are planning to host meetings organized together with the Agency in the field of nuclear security with experts from around the world.

Earlier this year, we had a national training course organized by the IAEA on cyber security.

Our cooperation in nuclear forensics is for the benefit of the interested Member States as well as of Hungary.

At the end of last year an important step was taken to improve the security of our nuclear installations: the last batch of highly enriched uranium fuel was repatriated to the Russian Federation, their country of origin.

Let me express our deepest appreciation to the governments of the Russian Federation and the USA as well as to the IAEA, whose help and cooperation made the transportation possible.

Mr. President,

As in each year I am pleased to inform you about our in-kind support to the Agency's safeguards activities.

This year again we will host a training course for safeguards inspectors which will include a field exercise as well.

We have actively participated in drafting the Agency's safeguards implementation guides.

We conducted a two-day large scale national nuclear emergency preparedness and response exercise in October last year.

This exercise was also attended by over twenty international observers.

I am grateful for the positive feedback by the observers regarding our successful practices in relation to nuclear and radiological emergencies.

The Centre for Energy Research has decided to recalibrate their whole body counter.

Driven by this decision they turned to the Agency to lend them a Lawrence Livermore realistic phantom, which the Secretariat approved.

So the phantom is now being used to help recalibrate the whole body counters at three Hungarian institutions.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Agency lending us the phantom.

Mr. President,

Hungary attaches great importance to the Agency's work under its Technical Cooperation Programme.

We hosted eight workshops, training courses in the past year and we are still negotiating further TC events for this year.

Hungary is also hosting training courses in the field of human health, as well as on helping governments to make multi-criteria analysis before deciding on embarking on a nuclear power program.

Hungary attaches great importance to international cooperation in the field of nuclear power.

Thanks to the international fora provided by the Agency, Hungary has been able to establish and strengthen its international partnerships with other Member States and with the Agency itself.

We are pleased to report on a joint training program agreed between Vietnam and our Government. Under this program, Hungary has trained 160 Vietnamese experts since 2012.

Half of the six week program took place at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, at the Institute of Nuclear Techniques where the theoretical lectures were held.

The second half of the training was held at Paks Nuclear Power Plant, where they were able to use the unique practical facilities of the Maintenance and Training Centre of the NPP without running the risk of being exposed to radiation.

Further such training programs will take place in Paks and in Budapest before the end of this year.

Information and knowledge sharing has been and will continue to be the focus of our cooperation programs.

Mr. President,

Hungary welcomes that the Program of Action for Cancer Therapy is gaining ground in countries which are much in need.

We also value the Agency's work in other nuclear techniques being applied in various fields of everyday life: from finding drinking water to preserving artifacts of cultural heritage.

In closing let me emphasize that Hungary considers that peaceful uses of nuclear energy should serve the prosperity of people, contribute significantly to clean energy production and also constitute a significant part of the global energy mix. In this context Hungary lends its full support to the Agency's program.

Thank you Mr. President!