

Statement by Ambassador Peter van Wulfften Palthe

Resident Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the International Atomic Energy Agency

Wednesday 24th of September 2014, Vienna

Mr. President,

Mr. President, let me start by congratulating you on the assumption of your important task in presiding over the 58th General Conference. The Netherlands, myself and my delegation, pledge you our full support.

Let me also, Mr. President, extend our congratulations to the new members of the IAEA: the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu.

Mr. President,

The Netherlands fully associates itself with the statement made by Italy on behalf of the European Union. In addition to that I would like to make the following comments on a national basis.

Non-Proliferation

Mr. President, non-proliferation and disarmament are, and will remain, firm cornerstones of Dutch foreign policy. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is very much at the basis of our non-proliferation policy and the 2010 Action Plan is our roadmap. We call upon those States that have not done so yet, to join the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states as soon as possible.

Safeguards

Mr. President,

The Agency's system of **safeguards** is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. I should like to express our great appreciation for the way in which the Secretariat is implementing its mandate in this. The Netherlands, as many other member states, recognises the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements in conjunction with the Model Additional Protocols as *the* international verification standard and we are pleased that the number of operational Additional Protocols is growing.

The Netherlands commends the Agency for its progress on the development and implementation of safeguards in the context of the State Level Concept. We are convinced that state level approaches, which are currently implemented in 53 states, will lead to a more efficient and effective application of safeguards in all IAEA member states.

The Netherlands fully recognizes that the development and implementation of safeguards according to the State Level Concept is a dynamic process and stands ready to work together on its further utilization. We therefore welcome the broad discussions held on the State Level Concept over the past year, the seriousness with which the Agency has consulted and informed its members, and the readiness of the Agency to take different suggestions, points of view and opinions into consideration. We commend Director General Amano and Deputy Director General Varjoranta for the results achieved and we are looking forward to continuing the dialogue and consultations on this important subject.

Our commitment to safeguards and its implementation is reflected in our support through our Member State Support Program; and, in addition to this the grant of € 100,000 to assist the Agency's efforts on the universalization of the Model Additional Protocol.

Mr. President,

Reporting by the Agency on situations in countries with recognized safeguards issues and problems – the DPRK, Iran and Syria – has also this year been independent, technical and factual, as we expect from the Agency.

Mr. President,

IRAN

The Netherlands wholeheartedly supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts between the E3+3 and Iran on its nuclear program. Progress has been made during the past year under the Joint Plan of Action (JPA). In this respect, my country has contributed a total of EUR 375,000 to allow the IAEA to effectively monitor and verify the nuclear-related steps under the JPA. We hope that the negotiation parties are able to reach a comprehensive solution before 24 November. We commend the Agency for its efforts under the Framework for Cooperation and have noted that Iran has not yet fulfilled all commitments under this framework. We call on Iran to step up its efforts to resolve international concerns over its nuclear program.

DPRK

Furthermore, Mr. President, the Netherlands would like to thank the Director General for his recent report on the situation in the DPRK. We remain very concerned about the lack of response and appropriate action by the DPRK leadership to the strong message by the International Community to adhere to its international obligations. Renewed activities at the Yongbyon nuclear facilities are a matter of great concern. The Netherlands remains convinced of the essential role

the Agency has in verifying the application of safeguards in the DPRK and urges the DPRK government to allow the early return of IAEA inspectors.

Syria

In that same vein, Mr. President, the Netherlands also welcomes the new report by the Director General on Syria. We hope that Syria will respond positively and without delay to the DG's request, resolving all outstanding questions and bringing into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible. The grave security situation in Syria cannot be an excuse for the Syrian government for not doing its utmost in resolving the outstanding issues.

Nuclear Security and Safety

In March this year, my country hosted the Nuclear Security Summit. At the Summit, leaders of 53 states were engaged in interactive discussions on a wide range of security topics and scenarios. The final Communiqué emphasizes the central role of the Agency in nuclear security. In the framework of the Summit, important steps have been taken and commitments were expressed regarding among other the reduction of the amount of dangerous nuclear material, the minimization of stockpiles of plutonium and the improvement of international cooperation in nuclear security.

In conjunction with the NSS, two other summits were organized in the Netherlands: the Nuclear Industry Summit and the Nuclear Knowledge Summit. We believe that the results achieved in all three processes contribute to and support the Agency's work in the area of nuclear security, and will benefit all Member States.

One important development I would like to highlight is the Joint Statement by 35 countries to strengthen nuclear security implementation. Together we have committed to embed the objectives of the Nuclear Security Fundamentals in national rules and regulations, including recommendations in specific Nuclear Security Series documents. The Netherlands has already implemented several actions, including the recent contribution to the Nuclear Security Fund of 1 million Euro for the implementation of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan. We encourage all member states to support this Joint Statement.

IPPAS missions are an instrument to improve security and to increase confidence in the security of nuclear installations. The Netherlands has hosted IPPAS missions to all our nuclear installations, a very valuable exercise which we can highly recommend to all Member States. The Netherlands furthermore fully supports the Agency in its promotion of the entry into force of the 2005 amendment to the CPPNM and has provided funding for the organization of regional outreach workshops to assist countries in their national ratification process.

In the area of radiological security, the Netherlands has committed to work jointly with France, Germany and the United States on a roadmap of actions over the next two years to strengthen the international framework, support alternatives for radioactive sources and enhance efforts of source suppliers countries.

This November an IRRS mission will visit the Netherlands. We very much welcome this peer review mission, as it has proven to be very effective in assessing and strengthening national regulatory infrastructures, enabling Member States to discharge their national and international responsibilities for nuclear safety and security in the best possible ways.

I would also like to highlight the importance of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The Netherlands participated actively at the last Review Conference. The convention currently has 77 contracting States – only one more than last year. We call upon all States not member yet, to join us in this innovative safety mechanism and we call on the remaining 10 signatory States to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

The Agency's role in advancing nuclear technology to the benefit of all cannot be overstated. It is crucial that the Agency is equipped with the resources, both material and financial, to optimally fulfill its mandate. In this regard we welcome the agreement on the budget for 2015.

The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program and has as always pledged its full target share to the Technical Cooperation Fund for the year 2015. Through the TCP, the IAEA can make a unique contribution to sustainable national and international development, including to the Millennium Development Goals. We would like to stress however, the importance of rigorous implementation of safety, security and safeguards measures in the TCP to prevent unnecessary risks to the health of citizens, workers, patients or the environment and to prevent nuclear material falling in hands of terrorists. We welcome the Agency's clear commitment in this regard and recommend that the Agency, when nuclear material is provided, offers assistance in the implementation of its guidance and recommendations.

Regarding the financing of the TC activities, we support all efforts to make the TCP more efficient and effective. In order to make more funds available to least developed countries, we encourage Member States who are in a position to do so, to reimburse the Agency for assistance received. We furthermore encourage Member States to move away from receiving assistance as soon as their national situation allows so - we have seen and welcomed such decisions by individual Member States in the past. Last but not the least we look back to a very successful visit by Deputy Director General Kwaku Aning to the Netherlands earlier this year.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me assure you that the Netherlands will continue to take an active part in shaping the future of the Agency as it deals with the challenges and opportunities it faces.

Thank you Mr. President