

STATEMENT

by Janusz Wlodarski

**President
of the National Atomic Energy Agency**

POLAND

on the occasion of the

58th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

**of the
International Atomic Energy Agency**

Vienna, 2014

**Mr. President,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Polish Delegation, I take a great pleasure in joining my previous distinguished speakers in congratulating You Mr. President on the assumption of Your important and difficult task as President of the fifty-eighth annual session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I wish to assure You of the full support and cooperation of my Delegation in the fulfillment of Your responsibilities.

I would also like to compliment Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano, and his staff on the very professional way they manage the Agency and organize this session of the Conference.

The Polish Delegation fully shares the comments made by the distinguished representative of the Italian Presidency on behalf of Member States of the European Union.

Poland wishes to extend particular greetings to the new members of the Agency: Union of Comoros, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Guyana and Republic of Vanuatu.

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates,

Recognizing the importance of peaceful nuclear cooperation, as well as nuclear safety and security, Poland reaffirms its full support for the IAEA in accomplishing its mission. We would like to reiterate that Poland is a party of all significant conventions and treaties regarding nuclear safety and security, radiation protection, non-proliferation and radiation monitoring.

Poland also supports all the initiatives and efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism. Our State ratified both the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and the International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

We consider taking steps such as implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan and organizing Nuclear Security Summits as very useful and express our strong intent for further cooperation within these frameworks.

I am pleased to inform you that very recently the 7th shipment of high enriched uranium spent fuel from Polish research reactors to Russian Federation has been successfully implemented. The remaining high enriched uranium spent fuel assemblies are currently stored at reactor technological pool and will be shipped to Russian Federation in 2016. Since September this year our research reactor MARIA has been working solely on low enriched uranium fuel.

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates,

Polish Delegation takes great pleasure in sharing with You the news regarding the Polish Nuclear Power Program adopted by the government of Poland at the end of January 2014 and the first steps on the way to its implementation. The Program is a strategic document that includes a roadmap for launching nuclear power in Poland and defines the roles and scope of responsibilities of particular stakeholders. It also provides measures to assure nuclear safety and radiological protection in Poland. The Program also approaches the issues of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management.

Poland intends to build two nuclear power plants of total installed capacity of 6000 MWe. Government of our country has designated the largest Polish energy company – Polish Energy Group as the investor in nuclear power in Poland. The first reactor is planned to become operational by the year 2025.

Currently, site characterization works and environmental impact assessments are being conducted in the northern part of Poland, simultaneously in two sites. Site characterization is run in accordance with the Polish law as well as international standards and best practices. According to the current plans, selection of the site and conclusion of contract for the construction of the nuclear power plant are planned to be completed by the end of 2016.

Introduction of nuclear power in Poland requires not only significant legislative changes, but organizational adaptation to new tasks in a

structure of nuclear authority as well. In order to prepare a legal basis for nuclear power there were two amendments of the Act of Parliament - Atomic law: first in 2011 and second in 2014.

Safety requirements of the amended law were formulated in such a way as to provide competitiveness of nuclear technologies without deciding what type of nuclear power plant may be built in Poland. New provisions ensure that investor may choose only from among the most modern technologies which fulfill the highest possible safety requirements. The provisions of the amended law give an absolute priority to safety over other issues connected with activities of nuclear facilities.

The amended law includes a requirement stating that construction, commissioning, operation or decommissioning of nuclear facility cannot be conducted without licence issued by the regulatory body.

Additionally, the amended law ensures that responsibility for the nuclear safety is correctly determined and assigned at all stages of nuclear facility's work.

The requirements contained in the amended law were described in greater detail in the executive Council of Ministers' Regulations.

Mr. President,

In regard to the nuclear regulatory authority – National Atomic Energy Agency (PAA) - the main challenge connected with nuclear power program implementation is related to its transition into a modern, professional and fully transparent regulatory body, capable of taking up new tasks. First of all, the number of regulatory authority staff was significantly increased, while organizational structure of regulatory authority and management system were adjusted to new tasks.

Polish regulatory authority staff is continually undergoing professional trainings. Intensive training cooperation is being implemented within IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, both regionally and nationally. Polish regulatory body experts take active part in working groups of international organizations involved in nuclear and radiation protection field. Additionally, many of them participate in bilateral and multilateral exchange of knowledge and experience as well as in peer review missions. It is worth noting that Polish specialists have gained

experience in regulating non-power facilities like research reactors, spent fuel storages and near surface radioactive waste repository which have been operating in Poland for many years. An extremely important aspect constituting a part of the Polish regulatory experts' training is an opportunity to participate in so-called "on the job training". Polish regulatory authority in cooperation with Regulatory Cooperation Forum working under auspices of IAEA, developed Action Plan to implement such training. According to this Action Plan, next year a number of Polish professional staff will undergo long-term training in regulatory bodies in countries that have many years of experience in conducting nuclear programs. This initiative will be funded through available budget of national Technical Cooperation Program and in framework of Polish regulatory authority resources.

In order to accelerate the exchange of experience in nuclear safety area we constantly develop bilateral regulatory cooperation.

Mr. President,

In order to facilitate an effective compliance with the Polish Nuclear Power Program, Polish regulatory body has developed the Action plan for implementing recommendations and suggestions of Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission to Poland. In addition, Poland has adopted the National Action Plan implementing recommendations of Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review. During the last spring Poland hosted an IAEA delegation in Warsaw. Common works with Polish experts resulted in the adoption of the Integrated Work Plan the aim of which is to implement all suggestions and recommendations of both INIR and IRRS missions to Poland.

While working on development of infrastructure for the Polish Nuclear Power Program, we intend, among others, to strengthen the area of security and physical protection. I'm pleased to announce that we intend in the near future to officially invite the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS).

Mr. President,

Poland has always attached great importance to the role of technical cooperation in relations between the Agency and its Member States.

Our goal is to maintain active participation in all dimensions of TC Program: national, regional and interregional. Poland strongly supports the application of the “due account” principle and is fully committed to paying Technical Cooperation Fund targets as well as national participation costs on time and in full.

Taking into account Polish Nuclear Power Program two priorities have been defined for near and mid -term technical cooperation between Poland and IAEA – these priorities are nuclear safety and nuclear energy. These priorities are reflected in Polish “Country Programme Note” for 2016 – 2017.

In addition, for this period of time, Poland proposed a regional project concept with the aim to strengthen licensing capabilities of regulatory authorities in countries introducing or expanding nuclear power programs. We believe that such concept is needed to answer to actual needs of many regulatory bodies in the region facing a challenge of licensing a new build.

While focusing on nuclear safety and nuclear power areas, Poland is also active at TC national and regional level in other areas like human health and applications of isotope and radiation technology in industry.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, on behalf of the Polish Government I am pleased to emphasize that the firm support of our country for IAEA activities will continue.

Thank you for your attention.