



MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS
DIRECÇÃO-GERAL DE POLÍTICA EXTERNA

Statement by
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Representative to the IAEA

Head of Delegation of Portugal to the
Fifty-eighth General Conference of the IAEA
22-26 September 2014

Mr President,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Fifty-eighth General Conference of the IAEA and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Portugal fully endorses the views expressed in the statement made earlier by Italy on behalf of the European Union.

Mr President,

Portugal welcomes the applications by the Union of Comoros, The Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu. The growing number of Member States of the IAEA family is a sound proof of its credibility, work and contribution to Peace and stability in today's challenging world.

We take this opportunity to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to adhere fully to the Non Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear weapons states and remind that next year's review conference will be an opportunity for



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them to move forward. Their full participation in the NPT realm can only enhance Peace.

Mr President,

We strongly believe that the standard model of safeguards comprises a comprehensive agreement and an additional protocol. The fact that some countries may, due to their dimension, have a Small Quantities Agreement, does not exclude them from those obligations. Furthermore, those that have not yet ratified its revised version should do so promptly. Portugal remains committed to the development of a State Level Concept applicable to all States, in particular where proliferation risks are higher.

Concerning proliferation issues, as the DG stated in his report, the situation in North Korea is a “matter of serious concern” and we should all engage in order to pressure Pyongyang authorities to abide by the Board of Governors and the UN Security Council resolutions. Regarding Syria, we remain concerned with the continuous delays in cooperating with the IAEA. As far as Iran is concerned, we support the IAEA and the E3+3 negotiations in full and regret that it has not yet been possible to finish the negotiations. There are still some unanswered questions that create difficulties to the process.

We have always been strong supporters of Ambassador Laajava's tireless efforts to set up the Conference on a Middle East free zone of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We continue to be engaged and appeal to all States of the region and the co-conveners to move forward with the conference as early as possible.

Next year there will be the NPT Review Conference, we should all work hard in order to have a very successful and consensual conference. Without it, the world will be much less safe.



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Mr President,

The role of Physics and nuclear engineering in today and tomorrow's world is unquestionable. Therefore, we should collectively invest in these two areas so that the industry and laboratories can proceed with their commendable work with trained personnel. More and more the health sector requires a deeper participation of nuclear science in diagnosis and therapy and this should remain a priority for all of us.

I am glad to recall that Portugal has recently ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, a fundamental instrument to ensure security to our citizens and to enhance harmony among nations.

Regarding safety issues, and considering the sheer size of the maritime area under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Portugal, we would like to highlight our full engagement in the coastal and shipping states negotiations, further emphasizing the relevance and effectiveness of such a dialogue for the purpose of addressing concerns over transport safety, security and emergency preparedness.

Safety of nuclear power plants must be carefully taken into account and we must make sure that lessons learned from past events are not forgotten but are instead used to help improve current safety methods and technologies. This approach to safety should include the new generation of nuclear fission power plants, as well as the prototype of the first fusion nuclear power plant.



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The Swiss proposal to amend the Convention on Nuclear Safety deserved our support, but we need to be practical and set as our priority the implementation of the commitments set out in the Convention.

Mr. President

Since we have signed a new CPF in 2013, we have been working with African partners in order to boost our scientific and technology relations.

Allow me to recall that, in line with article 2 of the Statute of AIEA and in particular with the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance, “each Member State of the Agency or group of Member States shall be eligible for technical assistance”.

Finally, Mr President,

Portugal takes this opportunity to reaffirm its overall commitment to the atoms for peace agenda and to reiterate its confidence on the discussions of this General Conference.

I thank you, Mr President.