

**IAEA 58<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE,**

**22 September – 26 September 2012**

**Statement by Slovenia**

**as delivered by**

**Andrej Stritar, Director of the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Slovenian Government let me first **congratulate** you on your election as the President of the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the IAEA General Conference. I assure you and the Secretariat full support of my delegation in achieving successful conclusions at all agenda items.

Slovenia welcomes the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu as new members of the Agency.

Slovenia fully aligns with the EU statement presented by the distinguished representative of Italy, therefore I shall stress only the matters of particular interest for Slovenia.

Mr. President,

The **Fukushima Dai-ichi accident** had an enormous impact on the international community and it triggered a long series of improvements of nuclear safety. I would like to present you the status of the implementation of the Slovenian Post-Fukushima Action Plan which was adopted at the end of 2012. The Krško NPP Safety Upgrade Program (SUP) is the core of this plan and the first major modifications were installation of Passive Autocatalytic Recombiner System and the Passive Containment Filtered Vent System. Both were designed to cope with severe accident conditions and to protect containment from over-pressurisation in case of an accident. The installation of these systems was finished during the outage in October 2013. The other important elements of this plan, which are still to be implemented, comprise safety upgrade of AC power supply, installation of an alternate heat sink, construction of an emergency control room, installation of fixed spray system for the spent fuel pool, mobile heat exchanger and erection of a new technical support center as well as the upgrade of the existing operations support center.

Mr. President,

Turning to **emergency preparedness and response**, Slovenia is and has always been active to bring its system in line with the international standards. Currently we are working together with our colleagues from neighbouring Croatia towards the harmonization of emergency response in case of a nuclear accident. This includes intensive reassessment of the basis for emergency planning including sizes of protective actions zones and a set of countermeasures. In addition we are working on optimization of radiation monitoring in case of an emergency. We are gradually improving post-accidental preparedness as well as we have prepared the first plan for the post-emergency phase for a large scale accident. Slovenia regularly performs exercises at national level as well as takes part in the IAEA Convex exercises. The 2014 NPP Krško annual exercise is going to be conducted as a national two-day exercise comprising the activities in the field. Participation from the IAEA and the neighbouring Croatia is foreseen. We carefully follow the latest IAEA guidance on emergency preparedness and response. The national workshop on the IAEA EPR-NPP had the attendance of over 90 participants.

Mr. President,

The **safe operation of nuclear installations** remains our utmost priority. Since the last general conference the research reactor and the Krško NPP have been operating without any events significantly affecting nuclear safety. However, in the last refueling outage in October 2013 during the core unloading a significant fuel failure was discovered. After very intensive corrective actions of the operator and the fuel supplier the plant was able to restart two weeks after the originally planned end of the refueling outage. We are glad to report that now there are no indications of leaking fuel. An important milestone for our nuclear power plant this year was the approval of its second Periodic Safety Review. Fifteen safety factors were included in the review. The review did not reveal any major safety related problems. However few hundreds of potential safety improvements were identified. Finally, more than two hundred items were included in the action plan and will be further addressed in the next five years.

After several years of standstill, in July the Minister for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning approved the investment programme of future low and intermediate level waste repository

located in Vrbina near Krško. It is planned that the construction license will be issued in 2017 and the repository will be finished by 2019. The project will be mainly financed by the Krško NPP decommissioning fund and less than one fifth will be from the state budget, which will pay for disposal of the radioactive waste of other institutional users such as medicine, science and industry.

Mr. President,

My delegation firmly supports all improvements of the **IAEA safeguards system**, which has always been a pillar of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. It is important that the IAEA, as the organization which is entrusted by the Non-Proliferation Treaty to performing control over nuclear materials, runs an effective and efficient safeguards system. We are convinced that the Agency is doing a good job and with its current effort and trends in safeguards it will remain on this track. In this context we welcome the introduction of the State Level Concept that will in our view further improve efficiency of the safeguards system.

Slovenia attaches great importance to **nuclear security**. This year we organized for the first time a comprehensive force-on-force unannounced exercise to test physical protection of the Krško NPP. This exercise provided us with specific information on the current level of physical protection, which proved that the relevant staff is prepared for events challenging security of the installation. Slovenia continues to support Agency's efforts in the field of nuclear security. We would also like to express our readiness to take part in the next Nuclear Security Summit which will take place in spring 2016 and present national experience gained in this important field.

In the conclusions, Mr. President,

We recognise the importance of **technical cooperation**, which has always been the Agency's activity which addresses needs of most of the Member States. Today, when many countries are faced with budget cuts and austerity measures the technical cooperation is even more indispensable in helping those countries with financial and technical support to maintain and improve their capabilities. Slovenia notes with great satisfaction that the technical cooperation programme is continuously strengthening in all regions ensuring improved food

production, better health care as well as protection against ionizing radiation. My delegation wishes to commend the Agency for reinforcing their effort in this vital area within the IAEA mandate.

Slovenia remains active in supporting the IAEA activities. In the last year we hosted four IAEA regional workshops, training courses, meetings and seminars. Many IAEA fellows from third countries were trained in the Slovenian organisations and research establishments.

Mr. President,

In my country the Agency enjoys great respect. We will continue to play an active role and contribute to the Agency's broad scope of work. I would like to conclude my remarks by sincerely thanking to the Director General and the Secretariat for their highly impartial, professional and diligent work to fulfil the Agency's statutory obligations.

Thank you, Mr. President.