

SWEDEN

Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Nils Daag

International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

58th session

2014

Vienna

Thank you Mr President,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election as President of the 58th General Conference of the IAEA and offer you the full support of my delegation. My delegation welcomes the Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam and San Marino as new members of the Agency.

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by Italy on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to make the following remarks from a national perspective.

Mr President,

The present three year term for Sweden as member of the Board of Governors is coming to an end.

During our time on the Board we have focused on three issues:

- guarding and strengthening the international non-proliferation regime,
- supporting the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology, and
- supporting the transfer of knowledge and technology.

Our aim has also been to ensure that the IAEA to the extent possible focuses on the technical issues at hand and to encourage Member States to avoid unnecessary polarisation.

Mr President,

IAEA has always been much more than a nuclear watchdog. Sweden has worked actively to spread knowledge about the organisation and all its

diverse activities. Sweden strongly supports the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme in areas such as human health, food security and water management. In addition to our full target share of the technical cooperation fund, we have provided voluntary contributions such as to the Peaceful Uses Initiative. Sweden has inter alia contributed financially to the water resources project in the Sahel region.

In order to achieve general support and broad consensus among member states, it is important that we recognise and encourage these tasks of the IAEA as expressed in the Agency Statutes. We need a good balance between safeguards, safety and security, research and development and technical cooperation.

Mr President,

Sweden believes it is essential that undertakings made in previous NPT Review Conferences, notably the 2000 outcome and 2010 Action Plan, are implemented in order to ensure a successful Review Conference next year. Sweden supports a forward-looking outcome document with concrete commitments on all three pillars of NPT – disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The strengthened IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. NPT safeguards agreements are a requirement for all States Parties to the Treaty.

Sweden encourages all states that have not yet done so to bring into force Additional Protocols without delay and to ensure that their Small

Quantities Protocols are in accordance with the current standard. Together, the Additional Protocol and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement constitute a robust and effective system that should be considered the current verification standard. Member States must provide the necessary support so that the Agency can carry out its task of verifying the correctness and completeness of state declarations.

Sweden is supportive of the Agency's efforts to adapt its safeguards activities in an effective, efficient and evolving system, including the development and the application of the State Level Concept. In this regard, the Agency has developed tailor made approaches for my country's nuclear facilities.

Mr President,

Sweden fully supports the on-going diplomatic efforts to seek a long-term viable diplomatic solution with Iran, including through voluntary contributions for verification purposes. Iran needs to address the concerns of the international community and make every effort to establish confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its programme.

We welcome the steps that Iran has made towards implementing the measures agreed under the Joint Plan of Action, as well as under the IAEA framework for cooperation. We call upon Iran to make further progress.

Sweden deeply regrets that the Agency has not been able to implement any safeguard measures in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

since April 2009. We urge the DPRK to comply fully, unconditionally and without delay with its international obligations.

Sweden regrets Syria's non-compliance with its NPT safeguards agreement. There has been no progress to resolve outstanding issues and it is therefore important that this issue remains on the Board's agenda. We urge Syria to cooperate with the Agency and remedy its non-compliance.

Sweden reaffirms its support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East. In the context of the NPT, Sweden expresses its full support for the efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Laajava. We encourage all Member States to support these efforts and reiterate our call to all states in the region to engage constructively and in good faith.

Mr President,

The Director General, His Excellency Mr Yukiya Amano, visited Sweden at the invitation of the Swedish Government. He was introduced to the extensive program for the management of spent nuclear fuel, including the interim storage facility for spent fuel CLAB and the Hard Rock laboratories in Oskarshamn. Of special interest was the local political and public support.

Sweden continues to be active in international co-operation on radioactive waste management, an important and relevant topic, as emphasized by the ongoing Scientific Forum. We support and contribute to the various

IAEA activities in this field, and are committed to and engaged in the work within the Joint Convention on the safety of spent nuclear fuel management and the safety of radioactive waste management. Sweden will continue to contribute with experience and knowledge in this area, including from the on-going licensing and creation of a deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel.

The Fukushima accident has led to several initiatives including the nuclear safety action plan to ensure that lessons learned are collected and used in the international safety work.

Major nuclear accidents can only be fully understood recognising the interplay between human, technological and organisational aspects. This includes the need for an effective safety culture at all levels. We commend the IAEA for its support to member states. Sweden has organised an information meeting on Human and Organizational Factors and will continue to be engaged in this area.

Sweden would also like to emphasise the importance of high safety standards globally, regionally as well as nationally to achieve an adequate nuclear safety level in all countries. International cooperation and the development of common approaches for nuclear safety are crucial. We welcome the revised Euratom Nuclear Safety Directive and will continue to support the IAEA Safety Standards developments.

In spring 2014, the sixth review meeting of the Convention of Nuclear Safety was held in Vienna. Sweden welcomes the amendments to the

guidelines under the Convention on Nuclear Safety resulting from this meeting. We also look forward discussing the Swiss proposal to amend the Convention on Nuclear Safety at the Diplomatic Conference early next year.

Mr President,

The Fukushima accident also pointed to the need for closer international collaboration in an emergency situation. A prerequisite for this is to make the necessary preparations in advance. The Nordic countries have a long tradition in preparing for accidents management in nuclear facilities. The five countries have developed rules and procedures. This co-operation has received international interest. Sweden continues to give full support to the IAEA activities regarding Emergency Preparedness and Response.

As a member of the European Union, Sweden has been active in the updating of the European Basic Safety Standards. The European Member States have together enhanced the applied safety levels within the European Union in accordance with the latest international knowledge and agreed standards. The IAEA safety requirements form the most important international basis for this work.

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the Nuclear Security Summits initiated by President Obama in Washington four years ago. We look forward to the continuation of this process and the meeting in the United States in 2016. We will engage in the preparatory process.

At the Summit in Hague this year, Sweden and Norway committed themselves to give support to Ukraine in the area of nuclear safety and security. During the summer the content of this assistance has been developed and the first projects have been initiated.

Sweden has been active in the development of an Agency model exercise material for nuclear transport security which aims to assist Member States in the practical implementation of the IAEA transport security recommendations. Next year Sweden plans to conduct a pilot table top exercise followed by a field exercise.

Mr President,

Sweden attaches great importance to gender equality at the IAEA secretariat. The full and equal participation of women, including at the highest levels, remains essential and will benefit Member States. We commend the Director General's efforts to encourage women to apply for senior positions in the secretariat and we look forward to further achievements.

I thank you Mr Chairman.