

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
58TH GENERAL CONFERENCE  
(22 – 26 September 2014)**

Mr. President

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 58th Session of the IAEA General Conference and the members of the General Committee on their election. I assure you of our delegation's full support for your efforts to bring this session to a successful conclusion.

It is a pleasure for me to extend, on this occasion, a warm welcome to the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibuti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu as new members of the Agency. Turkey stands ready to cooperate with all new members in the work of the IAEA, on the basis of the purposes and principles of the Agency's Statute and of the Charter of the United Nations.

I would also like to voice our appreciation to the professionalism displayed by the IAEA Secretariat, under the leadership of Director General Amano. We are confident that professionalism, impartiality and objectivity will continue to be the guiding principles of the Agency in further carrying out its mandate.

The Agency has achieved great strides in global nuclear cooperation over the years since its foundation in 1957. It has greatly contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as towards social, economic and environmental development through nuclear applications.

Today, at a time when we are facing diverse challenges regarding the future of disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the role of the IAEA in maximizing the contribution of nuclear technology to human well-being while minimizing the risks of proliferation is more significant than ever.

Mr. President

Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes one of the major challenges of our century. Creating conditions for a world without nuclear weapons is, therefore, a major investment towards a safer world and undiminished security for all.

Turkey is fully committed to the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) based on its three mutually reinforcing pillars. We regard the Treaty as the cornerstone of global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament as well as for access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. These three pillars are of equal importance and should be addressed in a holistic approach.

Turkey advocates global, overall disarmament and supports international efforts in the field of international security through arms control, non-proliferation and

disarmament. We are party to all international non-proliferation instruments and export control regimes and fully support their effective implementation. We value our work and deliberations among our partners in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), bringing together 12 countries from across all continents.

The international safeguards system of the IAEA forms an essential part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The universal adoption and implementation of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol is a prerequisite to an effective and credible safeguards system.

We support the universalization of the Additional Protocol as the current verification support and welcome that the number of States with Additional Protocols in force has increased to 124. We call upon those states that have not yet done so, to sign, ratify and implement their Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols without delay.

We would also like to call on the non-NPT states that have nuclear weapons programs, to sign the NPT and eliminate their military nuclear capabilities and programs in the shortest time possible.

Mr. President

Turkey is fully supportive of the greatest possible enjoyment of the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy for NPT states that are in full compliance with their Treaty obligations. At the same time, all necessary steps need to be taken in order to ensure that there will be no increased risk of proliferation associated with the expansion of nuclear energy.

Turkey attaches great importance to the effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system and appreciates the careful manner in which the Secretariat operates in pursuing verification activities under its mandate.

In this context, we note with satisfaction that the Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of the declared nuclear material in Iran. We welcome the Framework for Cooperation between the Agency and Iran and the Joint Plan of Action between P5+1 and Iran as positive steps towards the resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue. We take note of developments and challenges in the implementation of both of these tracks. We also acknowledge that finding a comprehensive solution and resolving all outstanding issues might take time. We call on all parties concerned to continue addressing the issue in a constructive and transparent way, with the ultimate aim of reaching a positive conclusion. Turkey continues to be ready to contribute to the resolution of the issue, through peaceful and diplomatic means.

On the issue of implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in Syria, we take note of Director General's recent report to the Board of Governors and trust that continued engagement of and with Syria would help the Agency in eliminating ambiguities and eventually closing this file.

The nuclear program of the DPRK continues to remain as a serious concern. The missile launches and nuclear weapon tests and public statements favoring more tests

undermine trust, security and stability in the region and beyond. We join many other states to call on DPRK to return to the Six Party Talks, so that the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula would be possible.

We highly value the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, wherever feasible. In this context, we welcome the signing in May 2014 by the five nuclear weapons-states of the Protocol to the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, as a positive development in the global non-proliferation efforts.

We are, however, disappointed at the postponement of the 2012 Middle East Conference. It is Turkey's sincere expectation that the Conference takes place at the earliest convenience, since this initiative can prove to be, not only an important confidence building measure at this critical stage in the Middle East, but also a significant stimulus to the NPT Review Process. Turkey's unwavering support to the Facilitator and his team will continue.

Mr. President

Nuclear terrorism has emerged as a new challenge to be seriously taken into account in our non-proliferation efforts. Turkey strongly supports all appropriate measures related to the security of nuclear and other radioactive material and facilities, in order to prevent their acquisition by terrorists.

The responsibility for nuclear security lies with the state concerned. At the same time, we believe that efforts at home need to be coupled with reinforced and effective international cooperation in advancing nuclear security. It is with this trust that Turkey joined the Nuclear Security Summit initiative from the very beginning and actively supported its follow-up.

We welcome and support Agency's evolving work in the field of nuclear security and regard Agency's role as crucial in fostering international cooperation on nuclear security. In this context, we appreciate the tools Agency has made available to interested member states, in order to support them in their efforts in improving or strengthening their nuclear security structures.

Mr. President

Turkey remains committed to the goal of ensuring safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear science and technology.

We support Agency's efforts to promote and maintain high level of nuclear safety worldwide and encourage the Secretariat to continue to strengthen its efforts relating to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, particularly in areas that are vital for Member States.

The Fukushima incident has once more brought to the attention of the world the significance of nuclear safety. We appreciate the Agency's work to share the valuable experience gained from this accident and look forward to the final report, due to come out next year.

We also look forward to the Diplomatic Conference in February 2015, for the amendment of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. As an embarking country, Turkey aims at the maximum in nuclear safety and we are confident that the Diplomatic Conference will lead us to more robust safety measures for nuclear power plants, new and existing ones alike.

In this context I would like to underline that the safety of aged nuclear power plants remains a serious and particular concern for Turkey. We once again emphasize that all necessary measures must be taken to eliminate the risks associated with such NPPs and welcome the cooperation with the Agency on that.

On another point, I would like to reiterate our strong support for the Agency's technical cooperation program and work on nuclear applications. These are essential areas in the work of the Agency in demonstrating its concrete support to Member States and in facilitating the sharing of nuclear knowledge and expertise among them. Especially for those Member States without nuclear power reactors, technical cooperation in the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, human health, industry, environment, hydrology or biological and physical research stands as a primary benefit of membership in the Agency.

Mr. President

Last but not least, I would like to point out that our plans for nuclear power are a key aspect of Turkey's aim for economic growth.

Turkey is the sixth largest electricity market in Europe. Over recent years, Turkey has seen the fastest growth in energy demand in the OECD, and according to the International Energy Agency forecasts, Turkey is set to double its energy use over the next decade. Electricity demand is expected to increase at an even faster pace.

The limits of Turkey's domestic energy sources in light of its growing energy demand have resulted in dependency on energy imports, primarily of oil and gas. At present, around 26 % of the total energy demand is being met by domestic resources, while the rest is being provided from a diversified portfolio of imports.

In line with our efforts for the diversification of energy sources, Turkey aims to reduce dependency on imported fossil fuels and support the country's economic development through gradual commissioning of nuclear power into Turkish energy mix by building three nuclear power plants (NPPs).

In 2010, Turkey and the Russian Federation signed an agreement for the construction and operation of the first nuclear power plant at the Akkuyu site (Akkuyu NPP) in southern Turkey, as a BOO (build-own-operate) project. The first of Akkuyu's four units, with a total capacity of 4800 MWe, is scheduled to be commissioned in 2021. The second nuclear power plant will be built at the Sinop site on the Black Sea, while the third project is still under discussion.

Taking into the account the developments following Fukushima Daichi NPP accident in 2011, it goes without saying that Turkey diligently takes all necessary precautions

in generating nuclear energy. In Nuclear Power Plant projects of Turkey state-of-art technologies and methods will be utilized to get highest level of nuclear safety.

Along with the plans to construct nuclear power plants, Turkey is in the process of enhancing its human resources and nuclear knowledge capacity and updating its existing nuclear legislation, by taking into consideration the latest standards series issued by the IAEA.

Turkey remains fully committed to the goal of ensuring safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, in accordance with international norms and standards. We highly value our cooperation with IAEA in this work. In this regard, upon our request, an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review Mission of the IAEA reviewed Turkey's progress in developing a national infrastructure for the country's new nuclear power programme in late 2013. We attach importance to the outcomes of the mission which will help us develop the nuclear infrastructure needed for successful implementation of our nuclear power programme.

We know that over 45 countries are actively considering embarking upon nuclear power programs. We are glad to see that a priority area for the IAEA is 'advanced newcomers' - that is countries that have made a clear decision and are moving forward with plans for nuclear power. Turkey is certainly one of the most important and advanced embarking countries with a unique position because of its high level of nuclear knowledge and its development status with a vibrant economy.

We encourage the Agency to continue its efforts towards providing guidance, support and assistance to Member States in establishing and maintaining adequate safety regulations and infrastructure, with particular regard to the needs of those Member States that consider developing nuclear power as part of their national energy strategies.

Thank you Mr. President.