

Statement by Ambassador Marco Hennis  
Resident Representative of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands to the International Atomic Energy Agency

27 September 2016, Vienna

Mr. President,

I would first like to join my colleagues in congratulating you on your presidency of the 60<sup>th</sup> General Conference. You can count on the full support of the Netherlands in fulfilling this role.

For six decades, the Agency has made invaluable contributions to global health, prosperity, peace and security. As we begin celebrations to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAEA, we offer our gratitude and continued support for the tremendous work of the Agency.

We also wish to congratulate Saint Lucia and the Islamic Republic of the Gambia as the newest members of the IAEA.

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made by Slovakia on behalf of the European Union. Allow me, in addition, to make the following comments from a national perspective.

### **Non-Proliferation**

Mr. President,

Making progress on nuclear disarmament and strengthening non-proliferation are priorities for the Netherlands. The NPT is the cornerstone of the international disarmament and nonproliferation regime, and the IAEA is the only organization equipped with the support, capacity and experience to adequately carry out the safeguards verification activities that are at the very heart of this regime. In this way, the Agency plays a crucial role in efforts supporting international peace, security and stability.

It has been over a year since the 2015 NPT review conference regrettably did not manage to agree on a consensus outcome document. However disappointing that was, there was still much we did agree on. As we move ahead, the Netherlands, as the chair of the 2017 NPT prepcom, looks forward to working with the IAEA, as well as partner states, to ensure a positive start of the new NPT review cycle.

### **Safeguards**

Mr. President,

In order to keep fulfilling its role in providing robust assurances against nuclear proliferation, it is essential that the IAEA can work impartially, independently and objectively. First and foremost, the IAEA is a technical organization. We should, therefore, resist any attempts to politicize the Agency's safeguards system. It goes without saying that decision-making power rests with member states. At the same time, we must remain confident in the capabilities of the Secretariat to carry out the tasks we've entrusted to it in an effective manner. We should not resort to micro-managing the Agency.

This holds true when it comes to updating the safeguards system when and where necessary. We must leave it up to the Secretariat to build on its experience and knowledge to implement nuclear safeguards in a manner that it deems the most effective and efficient.

The Netherlands supports the universalization of the Additional Protocol. To that end, we welcome the additional protocols that have entered into force since last year's General Conference. We further call upon states that have not concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement to do so and those states without an Additional Protocol in place to implement one. In our view, only a CSA plus an Additional Protocol satisfies the standards of verification enshrined in Article 3 of the NPT.

The Netherlands also supports the further development of state-level approaches to the implementation of safeguards. We welcome the updates by the Secretariat on the State-Level Concept and encourage further progress on this topic.

### **Iran-JCPOA**

Allow me to make a brief comment on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We welcome the fact that all parties are acting in accordance with their commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and were encouraged by the speed at which Implementation Day was reached. Nevertheless, continued vigilance is required in monitoring and verifying compliance. The Netherlands greatly appreciates the role the Agency plays in verifying Iran's commitments under the JCPOA. To that end, we proudly announce that the Dutch Minister of Foreign affairs has agreed to commit an additional one million Euro of extra-budgetary funds for the implementation of the JCPOA.

### **Nuclear Security and Safety**

Mr. President,

Strengthening nuclear security globally is in the interest of all states. It is, therefore, important that we once again achieve consensus on the nuclear security resolution. Doing so would send a strong signal on of shared determination to continue to improve nuclear security and will reinforce the central role of the IAEA in this area.

The Netherlands remains firmly committed to strengthening nuclear security. The entry into force of the CPPNM amendment is a crucial development that will greatly enhance our ability to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism. As such, it is essential that parties effectively implement the provisions of the amended convention. We also encourage all states that have not yet done so to become party to the amended CPPNM.

More countries have committed to the initiative to 'strengthen nuclear security implementation,' otherwise known as INFCIRC/869. Domestic regimes will be strengthened by reflecting the Nuclear Security Fundamentals and Nuclear Security Series recommendations in national rules and regulations. Periodic advisory missions and demonstrable competence of persons with nuclear security responsibilities are also important elements to that end. We invite and encourage all member states to sign on to INFCIRC/869, and thereby demonstrate their commitment to improving nuclear security.

The Netherlands underlines the importance of raising international political attention at the highest possible level, and thanks the United States for hosting the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington this year, assembling more than 50 governmental leaders to address our shared concerns.

We welcome the organization later this year of the international conference on nuclear security, and commend Korea and Nigeria for their efforts as co-chairs of the conference. The ministerial segment, including the interactive ministerial discussion, will offer an important opportunity for high-level engagement on this topic, and a strong political declaration will help drive further progress.

With respect to safety, the Netherlands looks forward to next year's 7th review meeting for the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The Netherlands attaches great importance to the Convention, as well

as to the 2015 Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety, which are essential international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety. Regular review meetings offer an important opportunity to share information related to the implementation of the Convention, and as such the Netherlands will remain an active participant. In line with our international obligations, the Netherlands continues to improve its robust domestic framework for nuclear safety.

The Netherlands regularly invites peer review missions to its nuclear facilities. We also participate in international reporting systems, such as the IRSRR [Incident Reporting System for Research Reactors] and the FINAS [Fuel Incident Notification and Analysis System], in which information on unusual events and incidents is collected and analyzed.

Mr. President,

The Netherlands believes that the IAEA must have the appropriate political, technical and financial resources to carry out its fundamental role of advancing peaceful uses of nuclear technology for the benefit of all. As a strong supporter of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program, the Netherlands hereby pledges its full target share to the Technical Cooperation Fund for the year 2017, as we have done in previous years. We commend the Agency's contribution through the TCP to sustainable socioeconomic development. It remains essential, in carrying out these activities, to uphold high standards regarding nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

The Netherlands is honored and pleased to be rejoining the Board of Governors. As a member of the Board, we plan to structure our efforts around the theme of good governance, focusing on key issues such as gender balance in the Secretariat, the benefits of public-private partnerships and ensuring sustainable and reliable financial resources for the Agency's key activities in the long-term.

Mr. President,

The 60<sup>th</sup> General Conference is a milestone that reminds us of how far we've come and how much has been achieved to harness the benefits of atomic energy for all mankind. We are confident that by working together we can meet any new challenges and continue to make progress toward international peace, security and development goals.

Thank you.