

**63rd GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

CANADIAN STATEMENT

Thank you, *Madam* President.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 63rd General Conference. Please be assured of Canada's full support towards the successful conclusion of this Conference.

Madam President, the passing of Director General **Yukiya Amano**, following ten effective and consequential years leading the Agency represented a great loss to the international community. Canada admired and whole-heartedly supported his efforts to modernize Agency management and improve gender balance within the organization, his effective implementation of the Agency's non-proliferation mandate, and his tireless promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology for the benefit of people everywhere. Canada is certain that his legacy will inspire the next generation of leaders and we look to his successor to demonstrate the same level of sustained professionalism that elevated the Agency's work during challenging times.

Canada welcomed the Board of Governors' swift action in selecting an acting Director General and extends its sincere appreciation to Acting Director General Cornel Feruta for the capable leadership he has brought to the Agency during this period of transition. We look forward to a timely consensus on the formal appointment of a Director General through a fair and transparent process.

Madam President, Canada recognizes **the NPT** as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime and will continue to advocate its universality and promote its full implementation. In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of this landmark Treaty, Canada is committed to working together with all State Parties to find the common ground that will ensure a successful 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Compliance with the NPT's non-Proliferation obligations remains among the most fundamental responsibilities of states.

In this regard, **North Korea's** illegal nuclear weapons program poses an unacceptable threat to the region and the world. Its actions are destabilizing and undermine the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Canada strongly urges North Korea to return to compliance with all relevant UNSC resolutions, the NPT, and its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. Canada will continue to support all diplomatic efforts towards a political solution leading to North Korea's complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization. Canada stands ready to support the Agency in verifying an eventual agreement on denuclearization, and welcomes the Agency's continuing preparations for this possibility.

Madam President, Canada deeply regrets **Iran's** recent decisions to exceed key JCPOA limits, and reiterates the importance of the deal's full implementation and verification by the IAEA. Canada reaffirms its strong support for the JCPOA as a key element of the non-proliferation architecture, in addition to all diplomatic solutions that help reduce tensions and facilitate compliance, and urges Iran to recommit immediately to the implementation of the entirety of its JCPOA

commitments. Canada also calls on Iran to continue to provide full and timely cooperation in its implementation of its Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, and respond promptly to the Agency's questions related to the completeness of its safeguards declarations. Canada also calls on Iran to ratify the Additional Protocol, to reinforce its transparency regarding its nuclear activities.

Canada remains deeply concerned, Madam President that - eight years after the Board of Governors reported **Syria** to the UN Security Council over its clandestine construction of a nuclear reactor - Syria has yet to respond to the IAEA's repeated requests to resolve its non-compliance with its non-proliferation obligations. The IAEA must remain seized of this matter until unresolved questions are definitively answered. Failure to do so would severely undermine the integrity and credibility of the NPT and the Agency.

Madam President, in line with the objectives of the NPT, Canada welcomes the continued evolution of effective safeguards and supports progress made by the Agency to implement the **State-Level Concept** (SLC). We continue working closely with the Agency to finalize the implementation of the State-level Approach for Canada. Canada also supports the efforts of the Agency and Member States in promoting the universalization of safeguards, particularly the Additional Protocol.

Canada remains strongly committed to the **peaceful uses of nuclear energy**. Consistent with our international obligations, Canada has a longstanding history as a pioneer in nuclear science and technology while regulating to protect the health, safety, security, and environment of all Canadians. Our independent regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has worked tirelessly in recent years to

produce a series of publications and regulations to ensure that Canada is able to innovate safely in regards to fleet refurbishment and new laboratory facilities.

Canada sees an essential role for nuclear energy worldwide – as a key contributor to our economies, energy security, and for the clean energy transition needed to combat climate change, in line with our global climate commitments and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the International Energy Agency highlighted this year, investments by advanced economies in nuclear energy would make it significantly cheaper and easier to achieve climate change targets. To this end, Canada recognizes the important role that nuclear energy must play in complementing renewable technologies.

This year, Canada was pleased to host the tenth Clean Energy Ministerial and fourth Mission Innovation Ministerial in Vancouver, where the potential of nuclear energy working with other clean technology sectors was highlighted, along with the importance of the leadership of women, Indigenous persons, and youth in the energy sector.

Canada continues to be a leader in peaceful uses through the emerging area of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), which represent the next wave of innovation in nuclear energy technology. We proudly released Canada's SMR Roadmap in November 2018 and have projects underway to build a first demonstration SMR at our national laboratories. As a reflection of our commitment to increase international regulatory effectiveness through collaborative work on advanced reactors and SMRs, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the US Nuclear Regulatory have recently signed a Memorandum of Collaboration for advanced reactors and SMRs in August of this year. We see this as a prime example of a

proactive approach in regulating new and innovative nuclear technologies, and we look forward to sharing our experience with interested international partners.

Madam President, while we are a strong proponent of the important role that nuclear energy and technology can play in the realization of our economic and environmental aspirations, a decision to use nuclear technology comes with important obligations regarding safety, security and non-proliferation.

We welcome the Agency's continued efforts to help Member States fulfill their **nuclear security** responsibilities, without which the continued advancement and sharing of nuclear technology would not be possible. To date, Canada has provided the Agency with over \$59 million in voluntary contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund for projects that have benefitted countries around the world. We look forward to the February 2020 International Conference on Nuclear Security which has an important role to play in sustaining and strengthening Member States' efforts to improve nuclear security worldwide.

We are acutely aware of the resource challenges faced by the Agency's Nuclear Security Division. We thus continue to encourage the Agency to strengthen its coordination efforts to maximize effectiveness and efficiencies while reducing costs across technical major programmes. On this note, we are pleased that nuclear security is increasingly integrated across the Agency's work, particularly in the formulation of Technical Cooperation (TC) projects. Highlighting success stories, like the Regulatory Infrastructure Development Project in Latin America, can help demonstrate how the Agency is using its resources more efficiently and effectively.

Madam President,

Regarding **nuclear safety**, we applaud the Agency for its continuous efforts to help Member States maintain and improve their national frameworks. Canada continues to emphasize the importance of Member States becoming Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

In June, Canada hosted the first Meeting of the Parties and Signatories to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC). Participants discussed progress in implementing the convention and opportunities to expand CSC participation. We would like to invite you to hear more about the meeting's outcomes at a side-event this week hosted by the "Friends of the CSC".

We strongly endorse the principles of openness and transparency and encourage all Member States to host international peer reviews and publish those results, as well as National Reports under the CNS. Canada demonstrated its commitment to such principles when it hosted its first Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) mission in June, becoming the first country with a large nuclear power programme to do so. This September, Canada was also host to its first Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in over 10 years, a key IAEA service that will help further strengthen our regulatory practices.

In closing, Madam President, please allow me to reaffirm Canada's unshakeable commitment to the mandate and work of the IAEA, including its role in strengthening international peace and security, and effectively advancing the benefits of nuclear technology, particularly those helping address key climate and

development challenges. Canada will continue to steadfastly assist the Agency to ensure all can benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a secure and stable global environment.

Thank you, Madam President.