

64rd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference

Statement of the Czech Republic

Delivered by Ms. Dana DRÁBOVÁ

Chairperson of the State Office for Nuclear Safety

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Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on behalf of the Czech delegation on your election as the President of this Conference.

Furthermore, we welcome the application for membership of the Agency by the Independent state of Samoa and the Republic of Guinea.

Regardless of the modalities of the conference, you can rest assured that our delegation stands ready to engage in discussions on various topics and is fully committed to make this conference successful.

Mr. President, your Excellencies, distinguished guests,

The Czech Republic aligns itself fully with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by Germany. In my national capacity, I would like to highlight the following points.

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic is well aware of the importance of the IAEA's activities in various fields and their valuable positive impacts. In this regard, we commend the Director General and the Secretariat for their quick action and efforts taken to ensure the continuity of the IAEA's mission as well as for the assistance provided to Member States to respond to pandemic. This was not an easy task in these challenging times.

Collaboration to share available information on impacts and mitigating measures is essential. The Czech Republic welcomes the availability of knowledge exchange tools such as the NPP COVID-19 Operating Experience Network. It has proven to be instrumental.

Mr. President,

Regrettably, the coronavirus outbreak has caused many important events to be postponed or cancelled. The 8th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety is no exception. As the President of this meeting, I do not take this decision lightly and I encourage all Contracting Parties to continue their engagement. Since its entry into force, the CNS has proven itself a significant incentive instrument based on the common interest to achieve higher level of nuclear safety. This aim is essential for the future of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy worldwide. I will work towards ensuring the meeting is held as planned so it remains an opportunity for in-depth technical discussions on topics of mutual interest.

Mr. President

The accessibility of the technical expertise provided through IAEA's services is of great benefit. Advisory and other services are invaluable tools for improvement of national regulatory and institutional frameworks and their regular use should therefore be encouraged. It is unfortunate, that some of the planned services have

also been deferred. For this reason, we were very pleased to host the first safety review mission that took place since the start of the pandemic.

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic has long been staunch supporter of the peaceful uses of nuclear science technologies for energy and other applications. A first commercial NPP began its operation 35 years ago and currently there are six nuclear power reactors generating about one-third of our total electricity production, making it the second largest source of electricity. Our government remains committed to the future use of nuclear energy. We therefore fully support the Directors General message during the COP 25 Conference. Nuclear power plays and will play an important role in helping us to reach a low-carbon future and to ensure security of electricity supply. In this context, we also thank the IAEA for organizing the International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power.

Mr. President,

This year we have reminded ourselves of the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and 25th anniversary of its indefinite extension. The Czech Republic is strong supporter of global non-proliferation regime with the NPT and the IAEA safeguards system being its bedrock. The application of the IAEA safeguards remains to be an indispensable tool for ensuring global peace and security, for building mutual trust and for advancing the peaceful use of nuclear technologies. The Czech Republic is proud to support the IAEA verification effort through involvement in the Member States Support Programme to the IAEA safeguards. Together with many others, we call for the universalisation of the Comprehensive Safeguards agreement and the Additional Protocol. They undoubtedly constitute the gold standard in safeguards. We are convinced that the implementation and universal application of the State-level Approaches (SLAs) would have great benefits, in particular in increasing effectiveness and efficiency of the IAEA's safeguards system.

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic express our full support to the IAEA's long-term verification and monitoring mission. We deem it essential to support the JCPOA framework and the irreplaceable role of the IAEA to monitor and verify Iran's commitments. Like many others, we remain seriously concerned with Iran's continued actions that are not consistent with the JCPOA. We urge Iran to return to full compliance with all its

nuclear commitments under the JCPOA and to reverse all steps that are not in line with these commitments.

Mr. President,

Turning now to the Technical Cooperation, let me emphasize that we recognize and appreciate a major contribution of the Agency in assisting Member states in many regards to ensure nuclear technologies are used effectively in safe and secure way. The IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme plays an invaluable role in enabling the necessary information exchange among experts. In this context, we proudly hold long-term status of a “net contributor”. I am also pleased to inform you that our extra budgetary contribution through the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) to assist Armenia in strengthening its national regulatory framework on nuclear and radiation safety has increased notably in the last year.

In a similar vein, we recognize how important it is, now more than ever before, to ensure regular and predictable funding of the IAEA. We pay our contributions in full and on-time.

In conclusion, the Czech Republic is convinced that the IAEA’s mission deserves our full support.

Thank you Mr. President. We wish You and the conference every success.