

IAEA GC64

FINLAND

Statement by H.E. Mr Pekka Haavisto
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Mr President,

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stress test for all international agencies. The IAEA has passed this test with excellent marks – maintaining business continuity across its broad mandate.

Safeguards inspections have continued seamlessly even in the most difficult settings, and Member States have been provided with practical assistance in tackling the pandemic. Finland has been pleased to contribute to this effort.

The past months have further strengthened our trust in the IAEA as a strong and effective multilateral organisation. The greatest strength of the Agency is its dedicated, professional staff. The DG's goal of gender parity within the Agency has our full support.

Mr President,

The IAEA plays a central role in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Maintaining the integrity of the IAEA safeguards system is essential.

The JCPOA remains crucial for regional and international security. Finland strongly supports all efforts to preserve the agreement and ensure its full implementation. The Agency's role in verifying the agreement is vital.

Finland is the first country to build a geological repository for spent nuclear fuel, and is committed to implementing the highest possible safety, security and safeguards standards.

We believe the repository can serve as an important example also for others, and we look forward to sharing our experiences, to support the IAEA and member states in finding safe solutions for the disposal of high-level waste.

One area I would also like to highlight is the high-level radioactive waste dumped in the waters of the Arctic Seas. I am hopeful that this issue will soon be tackled.

Mr President,

The NPT remains the essential foundation for all our work on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We look forward to seeing the important contribution of the Agency feature prominently in the deliberations of the upcoming NPT Review Conference.

In closing, Mr President, let me assure you of our continuing strong support for the Agency in implementing its important mandate.

Thank you.