

IAEA 65th General Conference
National Statement - CANADA

Monsieur le Président, au nom du gouvernement du Canada, je tiens à vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de la 65e (soixante-cinquième) conférence générale.

The global pandemic that we are experiencing reaffirms the fundamental truth that solutions to global problems require collective approaches that can only be achieved through effective multilateralism and international solidarity.

Canada recognizes that the IAEA has been delivering on this tenet since its establishment by fostering innovative solutions to our collective security, as well as our energy, health and development needs.

Canada applauds the **Agency's pivotal role in supporting Member States' responses to the COVID-19 crisis**. In Canada, the nuclear sector has been indispensable throughout the pandemic by providing critical resources to support the health sector, including with respect to the sterilization of medical equipment.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy shows clear promise in applications to other global challenges. **Canada recognizes the key role of nuclear energy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting climate change targets**. Advanced technologies such as **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** have the potential to enhance energy access and unlock opportunities for decarbonizing the global economy. **Canada issued its SMR Action Plan in 2020**, and would be pleased to share our progress and ongoing efforts to advance this technology.

Mister President,

In the context of the **NPT Review Conference**, Canada will work toward a meaningful outcome that advances implementation of each pillar: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Using nuclear energy comes with important obligations regarding nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation. Serving nuclear security and non-proliferation objectives, Canada is pleased with the completion of a multi-year project to

repatriate highly enriched uranium (HEU) from Canada to the United States. We will continue to work together on repatriation efforts.

It is paramount for the Agency and Member States to **continue the full and robust implementation of nuclear safeguards**, including the application of the Additional Protocol, which is essential to building confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear activities.

Continued efforts to address past and ongoing **regional proliferation concerns**, such as in Syria and in the DPRK are also central to preserving international peace and security. In the Middle East, **Iran's nuclear program** has long been a cause for concern. Global peace and stability is strengthened through multilateral commitments to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Canada is a strong proponent of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and a leading contributor to the IAEA's monitoring in Iran, having contributed \$17 million dollars since 2014, including \$2 million in 2021.

Sustaining nuclear safety and security in an integrated manner will be essential to maintain confidence in the nuclear sector. We welcome the Agency's continued efforts to help Member States fulfill their **nuclear safety and security responsibilities**, without which, the continued advancement and sharing of nuclear technology would not be possible. We applaud the Agency's efforts to support Member States in implementing nuclear liability conventions.

Canada is committed to continuous improvement to ensuring that safe and secure solutions are in place for **managing radioactive waste**. As recommended by the IAEA following its 2019 Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission, Canada is reviewing its radioactive waste policy to ensure that it is based on the best available science and continues to meet international best practices.

Since 2003, Canada has provided \$68 million in **voluntary contributions** to the IAEA **Nuclear Security Fund** for projects that have benefitted countries around the world. We look forward to the 2022 Review Conference of the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM/A) and to the 2022 International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

In closing, as the socio-economic, financial and health fallout of the pandemic becomes clearer, we will all face pressures to prioritize what is most urgent while

preserving what is essential. In this context, **Canada will remain an active and consistent supporter for the Agency's central role in ensuring the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.**

Thank you.
(681 words)