

Statement by H.E. ambassador Aldrik Gierveld

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the International Atomic Energy Agency

22 September: Vienna

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

[Introduction]

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recognizes the profound impact COVID-19 has had on countries, lives and livelihoods.

Yet, the pandemic also allows us to come together, through our efforts to find solutions to this crisis. We commend Director General Grossi and all staff for their excellent work during this period. The Netherlands is a proud supporter of the COVID-test kit program.

The promotion of gender equality is very important. The focus of the DG on this issue both within the organization and within the wider nuclear domain is

therefore commendable. The Netherlands happily supports the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program.

[Peaceful uses]

[PM Madam/mister President],

The motto of the Agency is 'Atoms for Peace and Development'. In carrying out this mission, the IAEA has developed many important assistance programs. The Netherlands proudly contributes to these activities by frequent voluntary contributions, in addition to paying our share of the Technical Cooperation Fund on time and in full.

As chair-designate of Main Committee III of the NPT Review Conference, the Netherlands fully supports the inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and we will strive to identify synergies between the IAEA's work and the NPT process, to move both forward.

[Safety, Security]

As the use of nuclear technology grows, so does the amount of nuclear material worldwide. As Member States we must ensure that the material is used responsibly. We must ensure the Agency has the means and tools to carry out its safeguards, safety and security tasks.

We attach the highest importance to implementing and strengthening the non-proliferation regime. We call on Member States, who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement **AND** an Additional Protocol. We support IAEA State-level approach, ensuring a safeguards system that is fit for purpose.

[Safeguards]

All Member States of the IAEA have to fulfil their obligations and their commitments.

Therefore, we call on Iran to cease any and all escalatory steps and return to the negotiating table in order to achieve a mutual return to the JCPOA.

Moreover, Iran must urgently clarify the outstanding safeguards related questions.

The sustainability and integrity of the safeguards system is paramount. The Netherlands commends the Agency's professional and impartial work in this regard.

[Conclusion]

At this year's 65th General Conference it is clear that the IAEA continues to prove its excellence and the Netherland reaffirms its continued to support it.

As the world faces increasingly complex challenges. Let us ensure that the IAEA continues its important mission for the next 65 years and more, and in so doing, helps us overcome our challenges.

Thank you.