



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands

**Statement by H.E. ambassador Andre Haspels**

**Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States of  
America**

26-28 October: Washington D.C.

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

**[Introduction]**

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak  
at this important and timely event.

Effective climate change policy provides for  
opportunities to build a strong and sustainable  
economy and create jobs. The Dutch government aims  
to make the Kingdom of the Netherlands ready for the  
future – as a climate-neutral, fossil-free and circular  
economy – with a clean energy supply and green  
industrial policies. The goal set out in the Paris  
Agreement to prevent global warming to 1.5 degrees  
should be achieved by enabling households,  
communities, companies and corporations, towns and

villages to make the required transitions to a more sustainable economy.

The Netherlands has committed itself to climate neutrality by 2050. Dutch policies supporting lower carbon emissions encompass all sectors of the Dutch economy.

### **[Energy transition]**

In the coming decades, a transition must be made with regards to our energy consumption and the way in which we meet our energy needs. The war in Ukraine has shown the need for a flexible and diverse energy system with a sufficient degree of energy. In order to be able to use electricity even when the sun is not shining or the wind is not blowing, a form of energy is needed that can be used for such times.

### **[Nuclear energy]**

One of the possible low-carbon options for adjustable power is nuclear energy. Therefore, the Dutch government sees merit in taking steps in the field of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy can complement solar, wind and geothermal energy in the energy mix. Nuclear energy can furthermore be used for the production of sustainable hydrogen. Nuclear energy makes low-carbon energy production possible and can therefore

contribute to achieving our common goals to fight climate change. In addition to solar and wind energy, nuclear energy is needed to make our society more sustainable. Finally, nuclear energy contributes to our energy independence, by making us less dependent on gas imports from Russia.

The Dutch government has announced that the Borssele Nuclear Power Plant will be kept operational for longer (with all due consideration naturally given to safety). In addition, the government is taking the necessary steps to prepare for the construction of two new nuclear power stations. The government set aside 5 billion euros to make this possible.

The innovations with regards to Small Modular Reactors are promising and it is therefore desirable that research is continued into these new forms of CO<sub>2</sub>-free nuclear energy generation. A good knowledge infrastructure is necessary to be able to respond effectively to developments in nuclear energy production, care for radioactive waste, and radiation protection in a broad sense.

## **[Conclusion]**

We commend Director General Grossi and all staff for their excellent work on establishing and promoting international standards and guidance for the safe and

secure use of nuclear energy to protect people and the environment. Existing and new nuclear programmes around the world benefit by the support of the IAEA providing technical support and knowledge management.

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

Thank you.