

67th IAEA General Conference
25 - 29 September 2023
Statement by Iceland

Delivered by Mr. Thorbjorn Jonsson,
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Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Reykjavik

Thank you, Madame President,

First let me congratulate you Ambassador Mangklatanakul on your appointment as President of the 67th General Conference of the IAEA. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Cabo Verde and the Gambia as new members of the Agency as well as congratulating Director General Rossi on his re-appointment.

Iceland aligns itself with the EU statement delivered by Spain, but I would like to make a few additional remarks.

Madame President,

Iceland greatly values the work of the IAEA, and we welcome the many contributions in the fields of non- proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We place particular importance on and support the safeguards system.

While the Agency is actively making the world a better place for all, all is not well.

Regrettably, Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine is again setting the scene for the General Conference. Russia's illegal war of aggression has led to the placing of Ukraine's nuclear facilities under risk. These facilities must be kept safe and secure in order to avoid a serious nuclear accident with unforeseen consequences. To that end Russia must honor the IAEA Board's resolutions on safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine and end their senseless war.

We fully support the IAEA's important work in Ukraine and laud the efforts of the Agency and its staff in challenging circumstances. The continued presence of the IAEA in both the Zaporizhzhia power plant and others is of crucial importance. We commend the Director General for establishing five principles for nuclear safety and security at the Zaporizhzhia power plant and call for their implementation in full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Madame President,

We are deeply concerned that last year's signs that a return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program was imminent, came to nothing. Iran's continued expansion of its nuclear activities is troubling. We urge Iran to comply with the IAEA's standards and to provide the information needed to verify the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations so soundly based safeguards conclusions can be drawn.

We also call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its international commitments and get rid of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile program and immediately cease all related activities in accordance with United Nations Security Council and IAEA General Conference resolutions.

Madame President,

We all have a clear interest in promoting nuclear safety and security and we look to the IAEA to provide standards and guidance in that respect. These standards must continuously evolve to keep up with technological development.

In responding to the manifold challenges in the current security environment, more and better multilateralism and international cooperation is needed and there we again look to the IAEA to play a key role.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Iceland's support for the work of the Agency. Both its Director General and the dedicated staff deserve our appreciation and thanks for their tireless work towards constructing a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you, Madame President