

**IAEA GC - National Statement by Ireland**  
**26.09.2023**

President,

Ireland aligns itself with the EU statement at this General Debate and makes the following statement in a national capacity.

Congratulations on your election and allow me to assure you of Ireland's full cooperation. We thank Director General Grossi for his steadfast leadership and congratulate him on his re-appointment. The Director General can rest assured of Ireland's strong support.

President,

Ireland reiterates our condemnation of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as international law and the UN Charter. Russia has shown no sign of complying with the resolutions adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors in 2022.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to pose serious and direct threats to the safety, security, and safeguarding of Ukraine's nuclear facilities. We are deeply concerned that the IAEA's seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security continue to be compromised. Nuclear safety and security is essential in all circumstances, including in armed conflict.

We welcome the Director General's establishment of five concrete principles to help ensure nuclear safety and security at the ZNPP and strongly support the reinforced IAEA presence to monitor and report on their implementation. We commend the IAEA for its vital work at nuclear facilities across Ukraine. We are proud to have provided an extra-budgetary contribution towards the Agency's assistance in Ukraine.

President,

The NPT is the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Progress across all three of its interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars is essential for its success. Ireland

underscores the indispensable role of the IAEA across the NPT's pillars, not least the non-proliferation pillar. We reiterate that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol constitute the current verification standard under the NPT. Ireland calls for universal adherence to the Additional Protocol.

We urge states developing their civilian nuclear programmes to amend or rescind their Small Quantities Protocol and sign & ratify the Additional Protocol as a matter of priority, and to recall the importance of universal adherence to IAEA safeguards.

Ireland recognises the sovereign right of every state to develop nuclear technologies for energy and other peaceful uses; nuclear and radiological technologies can contribute to a wide variety of socioeconomic and environmental benefits. As such the IAEA provides critical support to Member States in their efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In support of these efforts, Ireland is pleased to have pledged an additional voluntary contribution towards the modernization of the IAEA Nuclear Applications laboratories in Seibersdorf (ReNuAL2).

President,

Nuclear power must only be used safely and securely. Ireland expects that where nuclear power is used, it will be done so in line with the highest international standards, with respect to safety and environmental protection. Ireland greatly appreciates the central role of the IAEA in this regard. We look forward to ICONS 2024, and the opportunity to discuss the future of nuclear security worldwide and foster international cooperation.

President,

The important link between nuclear security and multilateral nuclear disarmament has been recognised by this Conference. Nevertheless, progress on the latter is critically needed.

We welcome last year's successful first meeting of States Parties (MSP) of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and look forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> MSP later this year. The TPNW is fully compatible with and complements the NPT.

President,

Ireland remains deeply concerned by Iran's nuclear activities, which are inconsistent with the JCPOA. Latest developments continue to raise very serious proliferation risks. It is essential that Iran, and the international community, work urgently to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation and to deescalate tensions in the region.

Ireland urges Iran to reverse its decision to withdraw the official designation of several IAEA inspectors to monitor and verify its nuclear programme. This decision severely and directly affects the ability of the IAEA to conduct its inspections.

Ireland reiterates its concern that nuclear material has been present at undeclared locations in Iran, and that the current location of this nuclear material and / or equipment contaminated by nuclear material is not known to the Agency. Iran has not made progress in resolving remaining outstanding safeguards issues nor with the implementation of the March 2023 Joint Statement. We strongly call on Iran to urgently provide the necessary technically-credible explanations to resolve all outstanding issues.

We call on Iran to reverse and refrain from all activity inconsistent with the JCPOA and all activity giving rise to proliferation risks, and to return to full cooperation with the IAEA on monitoring and verification, without delay, including resumption of the application of the Additional Protocol pending its early ratification.

President,

Ireland condemns the DPRK's unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile activities, which are in flagrant violation of UN Security Council resolutions and threaten peace and stability. We call on DPRK to immediately end its destabilising actions, and undertake steps to abandon its missile, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. DPRK must return to compliance with the NPT, fully cooperate with the IAEA, and urgently sign and ratify the CTBT.

Ireland regrets that Syria has yet to resolve its safeguards issues with the IAEA. Ireland calls on Syria to cooperate with the IAEA without further delay and to sign, bring into force and implement in full an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as a matter of urgency.

Ireland commends DG Grossi and the Agency for the work to advance gender parity, including through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship, and the recent Lise Meitner Programme. An inclusive IAEA workforce directly contributes to global scientific and technological innovation. Ireland supports the full, equal and meaningful participation of women across all three pillars of the NPT and the integration of a gender perspective in all our work.

Thank you.

973 words

**ENDS**