

STATEMENT TO

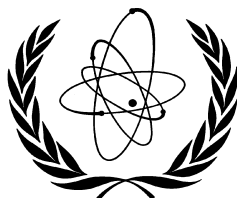
**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2026
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

SECOND SESSION

Geneva, 22 July 2024

Jacek Bylica
Chief of Cabinet, Director General's Office

(Check against delivery)



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to congratulate Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on having been appointed the Chair of this PrepCom. On behalf of Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, I would like to assure you of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) full support for this meeting and for your endeavours to make it a solid steppingstone towards the 2026 Review Conference.

The IAEA, an organization repeatedly mentioned in the text of the NPT, is playing a key role in the implementation of the Treaty. This statement aims to provide you with a brief overview of important developments in key areas of the work of the IAEA relevant to the implementation of the NPT.

Nuclear Applications

The IAEA is a crucial force for sustainable economic and social development, the improvement of health systems, the mitigation of climate change and pollution, and the strengthening of energy, food, and water security. By doing this, it supports more than half of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Last year, the IAEA supported 150 countries and territories through its Technical Cooperation Programme, of which 35 were least developed countries. We organised more than 1,800 fellowships and scientific visits on nuclear applications and delivered almost 200 training courses in which

almost 4,000 people participated. In addition, our emergency assistance helped to restore medical and analytical services in Libya, Morocco, Syria, Türkiye, and Vanuatu, following natural disasters in these countries. Emergency support for disease and pest outbreaks was provided to Croatia, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Montenegro, and Serbia.

Director General Grossi has launched major initiatives – including Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, NuTEC Plastics, Atoms4Food, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, Lise Meitner Programme - to which many of your countries and organizations have graciously contributed.

Rays of Hope is delivering life-saving nuclear medicine to low and middle-income countries, with resource mobilization having reached €65.8 million since the initiative was launched in 2022. In the meantime, 10 anchor centres (capacity building and knowledge hubs for different regions) have been established. Last May, DG Grossi travelled to Nigeria to participate in a cancer seminar organised by the first ladies of the African nations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The IAEA continues to support animal and human health and pandemic preparedness through the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC). By the end of last year, 150 Member States had appointed a ZODIAC National Coordinator, and 128 Member States had designated a ZODIAC National Laboratory (ZNL). Also last year, 39 such

laboratories were furnished with equipment for serology and molecular diagnostics.

Meanwhile, nearly 80 countries are participating in our NuTEC Plastics Initiative, in both marine monitoring using isotopic tracing techniques and in the quest towards a circular plastic economy using radiation technology.

Atoms4Food was launched by the Directors General of the IAEA and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in October 2023. It steps up our assistance to Member States through 7 services that use nuclear technology, science, and their applications to boost food security and tackle the growing hunger and malnutrition crisis. We have been working, jointly with FAO, on the road map for its implementation. This year's annual IAEA Scientific Forum, to be held in September in Vienna on the margins of the IAEA General Conference, is entitled: *Atoms4Food: Better Agriculture for Better Life*.

Much of our work would be impossible without the IAEA's unique laboratories. Having celebrated the completion of major fundraising for ReNuAL2, due to Member States' strong support and the consistent efforts of the co-chairs, Germany and South Africa, the modernization of the IAEA's Nuclear Applications laboratories in Seibersdorf is on course to conclude by the end of 2024, ready for operation in 2025.

Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on nuclear science, technology, and applications, to be held on 26-28 November 2024, are progressing well, under the co-chairs Finland and Ghana.

I take this opportunity to invite you all to our side event tomorrow, Tuesday, at 13:15, in Room XXIV, titled “How the IAEA supports the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for sustainable development.”

Nuclear Energy

Today, 416 nuclear power reactors operating in 31 countries make up more than 374 gigawatts of installed capacity, providing almost 10 per cent of the world’s total electricity and a quarter of its low-carbon supply. Another 59 reactors totalling almost 62 gigawatts are under construction in 15 countries, three of which are newcomers.

At the most recent UN Climate Change Conference, COP28, the world agreed that nuclear power needed to be part of the transition to net zero carbon emissions. In addition to that, more than 20 countries pledged to support a tripling of global nuclear generation capacity.

In March this year, the IAEA and the Government of Belgium brought together world leaders at the first-ever Nuclear Energy Summit. Leaders from more than 30 countries as well as the President of the European Commission emphasized the importance of using nuclear power to achieve energy security and climate goals.

Nuclear Safety

As nuclear power capacity expands, it is imperative to ensure continued safe operations of nuclear power plants and to explore new and

promising technologies such as small modular reactors (SMRs) and fusion.

The Working Group discussions, in the framework of the IAEA's *Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI)*, supporting the effective global deployment of safe and secure advanced nuclear reactors, with particular focus on SMRs, are progressing well. These efforts are particularly important for developing countries.

In the context of Member States' growing interest in the potential of fusion to provide large amounts of low carbon energy, the IAEA's World Fusion Energy Group will be held later this year in Rome, with support from the G7 and its current president, Italy.

The IAEA continues to maintain its presence at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS), monitoring and assessing the discharges of the ALPS-treated water. Expert independent analysis of the seven batches released so far have confirmed the tritium concentration in each batch of ALPS-treated water released to date is far below Japan's operational limit.

Nuclear Security

To better assist Member States in preparing for security challenges posed by non-state actors, in October 2023 the IAEA inaugurated its new Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Center, part of the IAEA laboratories complex in Seibersdorf. So far, the new Centre has held almost 40 training events with about 650 participants.

In May this year, the *International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) – Shaping the Future*, was held in Vienna, under the co-presidency of Australia and Kazakhstan. The ministerial-level event assessed current priorities, prepared for new challenges, and engaged in scenario-based policy discussions.

Nuclear Safety, Security, and Safeguards in Ukraine

The situation at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) remains precarious. Since September 2022, the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhya (ISAMZ) is present on the site, now in its 21st rotation. They are monitoring the observance of the seven pillars of nuclear safety and security and of the five principles established by DG Grossi at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 30 May 2023.

On this matter, the IAEA remains the only source of independent information for the international community. The Director General issued 12 reports on the situation in Ukraine, 238 updates available on the IAEA website, and briefed the UNSC 7 times, most recently on 25 April 2024.

Elsewhere across Ukraine, the IAEA maintained its continued presence at Ukraine's four other nuclear power plants. Since the start of the war, 56 deliveries of equipment worth more than €10 million have reached 19 organizations in Ukraine. The IAEA continued delivery of its medical assistance programme as well as its work to define Ukraine's needs arising from the flooding in the Kherson Oblast. The IAEA is

grateful to the 30 donor States and the EU for their extrabudgetary contributions supporting all of our Ukraine-related activities.

Nuclear Verification

The IAEA is the competent international authority entrusted by the NPT to verify and provide assurances of compliance by States parties with their non-proliferation obligations under the Treaty. We do this by implementing nuclear safeguards – legal and technical measures set out in safeguards agreements in force with 187 States Parties to the NPT. Besides that, 141 States Parties have brought additional protocols into force, giving the Agency greater access to locations and information.

There is much more nuclear material to inspect. Significant quantities – the amount of a material a State would need to make a nuclear explosive device – keep increasing. It has grown to 235,939 in 2023, over 5,000 more than in the previous year. This increases the amount of workload for the IAEA. Last year, there were 144 more inspections than in 2022 (2324/2180) and the calendar-days in the field for verification was 14 302 – more 236,5 days than in the previous year.

DG Grossi has urged the States Parties that have yet to do so to bring CSAs into force. When he took office in late 2019, 10 NPT NNWS Parties had not yet brought CSAs into force, and now there are only 4 remaining. In line with relevant decisions of the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference, the Director General has also encouraged States without APs to conclude and bring into force APs and called upon States with the old SQPs to amend or rescind them as they are no longer

adequate for the current safeguards system. Next year it will be 20 years since the Board of Governors approved the revision of the SQP, and the Director General is accelerating efforts to move toward greater adherence in the coming year, noting the challenges of drawing safeguards conclusions for States that have original SQPs in force.

Since the previous PrepCom, small quantities protocols (SQPs) based on the original standard text were amended for Fiji, Nauru, and Sierra Leone. In addition, an SQP was rescinded for the Plurinational State of Bolivia and an additional protocol (AP) entered into force for this country. Another AP was approved by the Board of Governors for Nauru.

Mr Chairman,

There has been no progress in the past year towards resolving the outstanding safeguards issues under Iran's NPT Safeguards Agreement. Iran has not provided the Agency with technically credible explanations for the presence of uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at Varamin and Turqzabad nor informed the Agency of the current location(s) of the related nuclear material and/or of contaminated equipment. It is also deeply regrettable that Iran has yet to reverse its decision to withdraw the designations for several experienced Agency inspectors, which remains essential to fully allow the IAEA's effective conduct of verification activities in Iran.

The Director General has reiterated to the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran his call for, and disposition to continue with, the high-level dialogue and ensuing technical exchanges.

With regard to the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* (JCPOA), the IAEA has lost continuity of knowledge in relation to the production and inventory of centrifuges, rotors and bellows, heavy water and uranium ore concentrate as a result of not having been able to perform related JCPOA verification and monitoring activities for more than three years. It has also been more than three years since Iran stopped provisionally applying its Additional Protocol, thus making the Agency unable to conduct complementary accesses in Iran.

Since the last PrepCom, DG Grossi has reported observations on the expansion of the DPRK's nuclear programme. The IAEA has consistently called upon the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under Security Council resolutions, to cooperate promptly in the full and effective implementation of its NPT Safeguards Agreement and to resolve all outstanding issues, especially those that have arisen during the absence of Agency inspectors from the country. The IAEA continues to maintain its enhanced readiness to play its essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme.

In March this year, the Director General visited Syria. The IAEA and Syria will have a new engagement with a view to providing confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of the Syrian people, and re-establish a meaningful, constructive dialogue and process to facilitate the clarification of remaining safeguards issues from the past.

With regards to developments in Naval Nuclear Propulsion in relation to Australia and Brazil, the IAEA Secretariat continues to engage relevant parties. The Director General will provide updated reports to the Board of Governors whenever significant developments warrant it.

Mr Chairman,

The IAEA makes an important contribution to the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons in a number of ways. Our safeguards activities, through which we aim to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, are a valuable international confidence-building measure. We also support States in their efforts to create and implement nuclear-weapon-free zones, which already cover vast regions of the world. The IAEA attended as observer all four sessions of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and provided relevant background documentation.

Mr Chairman,

Even though the challenges in the international arena are fast-growing and increasingly complex, States Parties can continue to fully rely on the IAEA's steady and resolute contribution to the implementation of the NPT.

Thank you for your attention.