

68th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference

Statement of the Czech Republic

Delivered by Ms. Dana DRÁBOVÁ

Chairperson of the State Office for Nuclear Safety

Vienna, 16 September 2024

MR PRESIDENT,

Congratulations on your election. I assure you of our full support.

Czechia aligns itself with the EU statement. Let me add a few remarks.

First, I wish to welcome new Member States – Cook Islands and Federal Republic of Somalia.

EXCELLENCES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The global situation is worsening, with rising tensions and divisions. Threats to non-proliferation are escalating, yet the global interest in the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies is growing

Strong support for 'Atoms for Peace and Development' is more crucial than ever. I am honoured to reaffirm our commitment to this mission and to express our deep gratitude to the Director General and the Agency's staff for their expertise, professionalism and impartiality.

MR PRESIDENT,

This Conference is convened, once again, amidst Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine – an utterly deplorable act, especially by a nuclear-weapon state and a Board member. Russia bears this dishonourable prominence, compounded by nuclear blackmail.

These actions blatantly violate international law and the core principles of the IAEA Statute. Russia must respect the numerous IAEA and UN resolutions, abide by international law and completely withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine, thus ending the nuclear safety and security risks it is causing.

MR PRESIDENT,

The Agency's safeguards remain indispensable to ensuring global peace and security. This core task must continue and it has our unwavering support.

The non-proliferation framework must be reinforced. We add our voice in calling for the universalization of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol, with full compliance as a matter of course.

MR PRESIDENT,

We are deeply concerned by the alarming escalation of Iran's nuclear programme, which clearly exceeds any credible civilian justification, as well as its lack of cooperation in resolving outstanding safeguards issues.

We urge Iran to reverse this course and promptly meet its legal obligations. Full cooperation with the Agency, in an earnest and sustained manner, is essential. This includes reversing detrimental actions, such as the withdrawal of designations of several experienced inspectors.

The DPRK's continued nuclear and ballistic missile programme remains a major concern. We call on the DPRK to stop its dangerous and escalatory actions and engage and actively work toward lasting peace and security.

MR PRESIDENT,

Czechia remains a strong advocate of nuclear technologies, which are essential in addressing global challenges. Nuclear power plants are among the safest and cleanest sources, thus offering a clear path to climate neutrality. We support highlighting their role, as seen in the recent successful Nuclear Energy Summit.

With one of the highest shares of nuclear energy, we are further advancing our plans to build four large reactors, aiming for nuclear to supply almost two-thirds of our electricity. SMRs are also part of this strategy.

Supporting Member States in overcoming regulatory and deployment challenges is crucial, especially where specialized expertise is needed for safe and efficient implementation of these plans.

MR PRESIDENT,

We reaffirmed our commitment to nuclear security through active participation in ICONS 2024 and the Statement on “Mitigating Insider Threats,” and commend the Co-Presidents for their leadership and work, including the final Joint Statement.

As a former President of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and in its thirtieth anniversary year, I wish to highlight the recent progress achieved. The 3rd Extraordinary Meeting adopted numerous proposals to streamline the review process, keeping the Convention a dynamic tool for advancing safety. I thank all Contracting Parties for their commitment, congratulate the newly elected Presidency and extend special thanks to the outgoing Vice-Presidents of Australia and South Korea.

MR PRESIDENT,

The Agency is making the world a better place and Czechia remains its steadfast supporter, both in word and action. We contribute in full and on time, and this year, we continue the positive trend of higher voluntary contributions to ensure this indispensable work continues. It is a cause that merits our full trust and backing.

I thank you and wish all of us a productive week.