

68th IAEA General Conference

16 - 20 September 2024

Statement by Denmark

As delivered by Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Mr President,

We congratulate you on your appointment.

Denmark aligns itself with the EU statement.

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine has brought nuclear danger to Ukraine. And to all of us.

A permanent member of the UN Security Council has illegally occupied Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant. This has added a new and deplorable dimension to nuclear safety and security.

IAEA's mandate to protect and promote nuclear safety and security is therefore more important than ever. Let me be clear: The current risk stems from Russia. We must continue to insist that Russia withdraws from the plant and returns control to the legitimate owners.

We thank the IAEA and its committed staff for all its efforts to help ensure nuclear safety and security in Ukraine.

This is key both to protecting Ukraine, but also to the integrity of the nuclear regime worldwide.

Denmark has contributed financially to this important work.

Mr President,

Denmark supports the work of the IAEA across the full spectrum of its mandate.

We welcome the Agency's contributions to the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. These will help Member States achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Denmark is pleased to pledge our full share of the Technical Cooperation Fund target for 2025 to foster development and growth.

Mr President,

We are deeply concerned by the lack of cooperation by Iran with the Agency.

Iran's continued expansion of its nuclear activities lacks a credible civilian purpose. This is very troubling.

We condemn the DPRK's clear failure to comply with its international obligations. And we call for a DPRK completely without nuclear weapons. This must be verifiable and irreversible.

We call on Russia and all other states to refrain from any military cooperation with the DPRK.

Mr President,

We look to the Agency to provide standards and guidance on nuclear safety and security. These standards must evolve to keep up with technological and other developments. This is essential for all of us.

We welcome and trust the Agency's ongoing objective monitoring of the release of treated water from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station. This complements the valuable transparency shown by Japan.

We want the Agency to be able to assist Member States in improving national nuclear security. Denmark is a significant contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund.

We regret the heavy reliance of the Agency's work on voluntary contributions. We call for resources to be made available from the regular budget.

Mr President,

In the current security environment, we need not less, but *more* international cooperation.

I thank the Director General and the dedicated staff of the IAEA for their invaluable contribution to building a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you.