

68th IAEA General Conference  
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Statement by Iceland

Delivered by Mr. Thorbjorn Jonsson,  
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Thank you, President,

First let me congratulate you Ambassador Han on your appointment as President of the 68<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the IAEA. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Cook Islands and the Federal Republic of Somalia as new members of the Agency.

President and distinguished colleagues,

Iceland aligns itself with the official EU statement that is available on-line, but I would like to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

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.

Regrettably, yet again Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine is setting the scene for the General Conference. Russia's illegal war of aggression continues to place

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 fully support the Agency's seven pillars for nuclear safety and security and the five principles for the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. Iceland supports the Resolution on Nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in Ukraine, and we encourage others to do the same.

President,

We deeply regret Iran's failure to cooperate with the IAEA to resolve outstanding safeguards issues and 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 call on Iran to return to the path of cooperation in good faith.

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.

We take note of Syria's renewed and long over-due engagement with the Agency and welcome the launch of a process since March 2024 on clarification of the outstanding safeguards issues. We expect Syria to fully cooperate with the IAEA until its non-compliance issues have been resolved.

President,

Nuclear technologies play a pivotal role in addressing the world's energy, health and agricultural needs, for the benefit of all people. 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.

We also commend the Agency for its efforts towards a more gender balanced workforce, both in the secretariat and in nuclear-related industries. 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 for your attention.