

IAEA GC - National Statement by Ireland

16th September 2024

President,

Ireland aligns itself with the official statement of the EU as published online, and makes the following statement in a national capacity.

President,

Once again, this Conference meets against the backdrop of the Russian Federation's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, in clear breach of international law and the UN Charter.

The Russian Federation's brutal invasion of Ukraine, in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, continues to pose serious risks to Ukrainian, and global, nuclear facilities. Russia continues to show no sign of complying with the numerous resolutions adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors or by the General Conference.

Ireland is deeply concerned that the situation at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) continues to be precarious and that the IAEA's seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security continue to be either fully or partially compromised. We strongly support the reinforced IAEA presence at the ZNPP to monitor and

report on their implementation and that of the Director General's five concrete principles to help ensure nuclear safety and security at the plant.

Nuclear safety and security is essential in all circumstances, including in armed conflict. We are gravely concerned by IAEA reports of continued military activity in the vicinity of ZNPP and the presence of Russian armed troops and military equipment at the site. There is an easy solution to this increasingly dangerous situation: Russia must withdraw all its troops from Ukraine's nuclear facilities and the entire sovereign territory of Ukraine. Ireland will stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes.

President,

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Progress across all three of its interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars is essential for its success.

Ireland regrets that the recent Second Preparatory Committee ended without the adoption of a consensus outcome document. As we work towards the third and final Preparatory Committee, we call on all States to engage in these discussions in good faith and embody the spirit of compromise to ensure the effective implementation of the NPT.

Ireland underscores the invaluable role of the IAEA in this regard. We reiterate that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement 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 and ratify the Additional Protocol as a matter of priority, and to recall the importance of universal adherence to IAEA safeguards.

President,

All States possess the sovereign right to develop nuclear technologies for energy and other peaceful uses. Ireland recognises that nuclear and radiological technologies can contribute to a wide variety of socioeconomic and environmental benefits.

Wherever nuclear power is used, it must be done in line with the highest international standards and with respect to safety and security. Ireland underscores the essential role of the IAEA with regard to both these issues and we welcomed the opportunity to discuss the future of nuclear security worldwide at the recent International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS).

President,

The links between nuclear security, non-proliferation and disarmament are well known. Despite this, progress on disarmament is critically needed.

Ireland was pleased to participate in last year's Second Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW is fully complementary with the NPT. Both Treaties work together to maintain and reaffirm the disarmament and non-proliferation framework. The TPNW creates a legal framework to help the implementation of Article IV of the NPT.

President,

Ireland remains deeply concerned by Iran's nuclear activities, which are inconsistent with the JCPOA. It is essential that Iran, and the international community, work urgently to find a diplomatic solution 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, which severely affects the Agency's operations.

We reiterate our concern that Iran has not progressed in resolving remaining outstanding safeguards issues in order for the Agency to provide assurances that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively

peaceful. We urge Iran to engage constructively and fully with the Agency.

President,

Ireland condemns the DPRK's unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile activities, which are in flagrant violation of UN Security Council resolutions. 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 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Ireland takes note of Syria's renewed engagement with the Agency and welcomes the launch of a process of clarification of outstanding safeguards issues. Ireland calls on Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA and to sign, bring into force and implement in full an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as a matter of urgency.

President,

Ireland remains committed to ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of the IAEA. We commend Director General Grossi and the Agency for continued work to advance gender parity. Ireland

strongly supports the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the integration of a gender perspective across all three pillars of the NPT.

An inclusive workforce and discussions directly contribute to technological and diplomatic innovation. We call on all States to engage in a collaborative and good faith manner with the work of this Conference to address the challenges we see before us and achieve real and lasting progress – for the benefit of all.

Thank you.