

NORWAY

IAEA General Conference, 2024

**Statement for the general debate, delivered by State secretary
Eivind Vad Petersson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo.**

President,

Congratulations on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference. You can count on Norway's full support.

Russia's illegal and unprovoked war against Ukraine is still ongoing. Despite numerous calls, Russia has declined to withdraw its forces from within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders. Russia's significant military presence at Europe's biggest nuclear plant Zaporizhzhya is totally unacceptable. The Russian occupation continues to cause an unprecedented risk to nuclear safety and security.

The IAEA's support and assistance missions in Ukraine provide crucial information and assessments to the international community. We commend their efforts as well as the hard work of the Ukrainian personnel under extreme conditions. We fully support the Agency's seven pillars for nuclear safety and security and the five principles for the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.

Norway supports the Resolution on Nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in Ukraine, and we encourage others to do the same.

Norway has worked closely with Ukrainian authorities on nuclear safety and security for many years. We have increased our bilateral support in this area with 13 million euros. In addition, we have supported the Agency's work in Ukraine, and at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Plant in particular, with close to 9 million euros.

President,

The NPT is the cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime and has contributed to our common security for more than half a century. The IAEA is the key international institution to ensure adherence to NPT non-proliferation obligations.

All States parties must cooperate fully with the IAEA in implementing their safeguards obligations. The comprehensive safeguards agreement with an Additional Protocol, constitutes the current verification standard. Norway urges all States to bring the Additional Protocol into force, and to revise their small quantities protocols where applicable.

President,

We deeply regret Iran's failure to cooperate with the IAEA to resolve outstanding safeguards issues. Only Iran can provide the necessary clarifications. The fact that Iran has not reversed its decision to withdraw the designation of several experienced Agency inspectors is of continued concern. We call on Iran to reconsider its decision and return to the path of cooperation in good faith.

Norway condemn the DPRK's pattern of ballistic missile tests and continuous development of its nuclear program. We call for the DPRK's immediate return to dialogue and its complete, verifiable and irreversible abandonment of the program. We appreciate the Agency's readiness to resume nuclear verification in the DPRK.

Norway regrets Syria's longstanding non-compliance with its Safeguards under the NPT, and the lack of clarification of four sites of concern to the IAEA, including the Dair Alzour site. However, we note Syria's renewed engagement with the IAEA on unresolved safeguards issues and encourage Syria's full cooperation ahead.

President,

The issue of nuclear security runs parallel to the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. Instruments in these two areas are mutually reinforcing. We regret that it was not possible to obtain consensus

on the Ministerial Declaration at the International Conference on Nuclear Security, in spite of the hard work from the Co-Presidents.

We call for the universal application of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and for the full implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and relevant guidelines and politically binding instruments.

Norway strongly advocates minimising and eliminating the civilian use and stocks of highly enriched uranium (HEU). We call on all Member States to sign and implement Information Circular 912 in this regard. There are several information circulars that touch upon priority areas for securing nuclear and other radioactive material. Endorsing these is a concrete step we all can take to demonstrate our commitments to improved nuclear security practices.

The IAEA plays a crucial role in coordinating nuclear security efforts internationally. We call on all States to ensure adequate funding for the IAEA's activities in this field.

President,

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

Sustainable Developments Goals. The IAEA is a key facilitator in this respect.

We also commend the Agency for its efforts to include more women both in the secretariat and in nuclear-related industries.

President,

Director General

Colleagues and distinguished delegates

I wish you all success for this General Conference