

Mr. President. I am pleased to attend and participate in the 59th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency under your presidency. Multiple and very special links join our two countries. You can rely on the Argentinean delegation fully support.

I would like to begin by saying it is an honor for the Argentine Republic to have assumed the temporary Presidency of the Nuclear Suppliers Group for one more period which ratifies the confidence in Argentina's contribution to international efforts related to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Currently, the world displays a scenario of clear expansion in the sector, with more than 67 reactors

under construction, a rising development in terms of nuclear medicine, a remarkable increase in the quantity of countries which venture into the sector and new nuclear energy application areas.

As Minister of Federal Planning of the Argentine Republic and responsible for nuclear area in the last 12 years, I'm going to describe briefly the situation of the sector in the country.

Argentina has been a pioneer and was the first country in Latin America which built a nuclear power plant. In its 65 years of history, the nuclear sector has had stages of substantial development as well as periods such as the one between 1990 and 2002, during

which the nuclear activity mistakenly ceased to be a State policy, which led to the paralyzation of projects but above all cause the loss of its man power.

Since the year 2003 the Argentine Government has taken the political decisions to restore the sector and adapt it to the technological leaps made throughout the world, achieving specific goals and objectives:

- ✓ USD 11 billion have been invested so far and USD 31 billion are planned to be invested over the next decade.
- ✓ Since the year 2003, 5,220 new experts in the field have been trained, as a result of which the number of

experts has grown since 3,000 to 8,220; that is, a 174% increase.

- ✓ 129 Argentinean companies have qualified to act in the nuclear sector, whereas in the year 2003 there was no one with such qualification.
- ✓ Currently, Argentina has 3 operating nuclear power plants with a total capacity of 1,755 megawatts, which meet 10% of the demand.
- ✓ One of them, Néstor Kirchner Nuclear Power Plant, formerly known as Atucha II, with a capacity of 745 megawatts reached full capacity in February of this year being the most important milestone in the last 30 years. It was one of the many projects that were

brought to a halt during the 12 years between 1990 and 2002. In order to complete this project, Argentina, through the government-owned company Nucleoeléctrica Argentina, assumed the role of designer, engineer and builder of the work, since the company that was originally in charge of the construction abandoned the activity. 88% of the work involved domestic components and both fuel and the heavy water required were produced in Argentina.

- ✓ As regards health, 2 Public Nuclear Medicine Centres have been built and 9 more centres are in the process of being built. These centres will strategically serve all the national territory and they meet the highest

international standards as regards cardiological, oncological and neurological diagnosis and treatment.

- ✓ A national linear accelerator was developed, aimed at the high flow production of neutrons for the treatment of malignant tumours, through boron neutron capture therapy.
- ✓ As a result of a type of low-enriched uranium technology developed by Argentina itself, the country currently produces 5% of the Molybdenum-99 used throughout the world in order to manufacture radiopharmaceuticals and it is the third biggest producer of “Cobalt-60”. In addition, we have exported

technology for obtaining radioisotopes to Peru, Cuba, Algeria, Australia and Egypt.

✓ Most private hospitals have incorporated the nuclear technology promoted by the Argentine State.

Argentina leads nuclear medicine in Latin America.

✓ Together with the Federative Republic of Brazil, we are developing two multi-purpose reactors: RA10 and RMB. Once both reactors are completed, 40% of the international radioisotope market is expected to be supplied.

✓ In the year 2007, the government-owned company INVAP exported a nuclear research reactor to

Australia. This was Argentina's most significant technology export under the turnkey model.

- ✓ The 25-megawatt prototype of the CAREM Low-Power Reactor is currently being built. This is the first reactor to be built in full using Argentine technology and designs. We expect to increase its capacity in order to sell it in networks whose demand does not require high-power machines.
- ✓ The "Pilcaniyeu" Power Plant, built for uranium enrichment through gaseous diffusion, is currently being recovered. On 5 June 2014, the "Mock-Up" Pilot Plant was finished and started loading uranium for enrichment. This is a landmark in Argentine history,

since it has helped consolidate the country as a member of the group of 13 countries recognized by the International Atomic Energy Agency as having uranium enrichment capacity. We are also developing other advanced enrichment methods, such as centrifugation at the Constituyentes Atomic Centre and the laser which will enable the country to master the 3 existing enrichment methods.

- ✓ A Uranium Dioxide Production Plant is being built that will supply 460 tons on a yearly basis.
- ✓ The Industrial Heavy Water Plant has been updated and provided with the capacity to supply the 3 Plants currently operating, plus the production of the initial

load of the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant currently under construction.

- ✓ In the year 2010, works began to be carried out and supplies began to be purchased in order to extend the useful life of Embalse Power Plant – having a capacity of 648 megawatts- for a new 30-year cycle, as well as to increase its capacity by 35 megawatts, through a USD 3 billion investment. For the first time in history, Argentine companies have manufactured internal components for this reactor, thus making it possible to provide new nuclear components for future power plants, both in Argentina and the rest of the world. I would like to underscore that the Latin

America Development Bank lent over USD 200 million and that this was the first loan to be given by a multilateral lending institution with a view to financing a strictly nuclear project.

- ✓ The works to extend the useful life of the Juan Domingo Perón Power Plant, formerly known as Atucha I, which has a 362-megawatt capacity, are also in progress.
- ✓ Argentina has begun to walk the path towards uranium enrichment technology. In this regard, 7 reactor providers have been pre-qualified: WESTINGHOUSE and GENERAL ELECTRIC from the United States, CHINA NATIONAL NUCLEAR CORPORATION from

the People's Republic of China, ROSATOM from the Russian Federation, KEPCO from the Republic of South Korea and ATMEA and AREVA from France.

✓ In this context, in 2015, Argentina entered into Agreements with the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, with a view to moving towards the final Contracts for the construction of 3 new power plants by the government-owned company

Nucleoeléctrica Argentina :

- An 800-megawatt power plant to be built using national natural-uranium and heavy water technology, with national components amounting

to 70%. Argentina will be the designer, engineer and builder of the work.

- A 1000-megawatt power plant that will mark Argentina's first step in the field of enriched uranium technology, with national components representing 50%.
- Another uranium enrichment plant, in this case with a 1200-megawatt capacity, with local components also amounting 50%.
- These 3 new power plants will provide a total of 3,000 megawatts and will increase the installed nuclear capacity from 1,755 megawatts to 4,755 megawatts; i.e. a 171% increase.

- The Agreements with the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China provide for technology transfer processes that guarantee energy independence and sovereignty, the development of Argentina's technology and industry and the possibility for joint partnerships to build power plants in third countries.

In terms of security and radioactive waste management and spent fuels, I would like to point out the most important measures implemented:

- Argentina headed the Diplomatic Conference taken place on 9 February 2015 regarding the Nuclear Safety Convention which ended up with the adoption

of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety. This Declaration sets basic principles referred to the design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants and reinforces the mechanism of consultancy and coordination for Regular Meetings of Evaluation. Next November an International Meeting of Nuclear Regulators will take place in Buenos Aires aimed to strengthen and consolidate the nuclear technological safety worldwide.

- All operating power plants have been adapted to comply with the new post-Fukushima international requirements.

- Argentina participates in the “Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management”, adopted in Vienna in 1997, and it has submitted the required reports since the beginning.
- By Law, the National Atomic Energy Commission prepares a “Strategic Plan for the Management of Radioactive Waste” approved by the Argentine Nuclear Regulatory Authority, which is submitted to the Argentine Executive Branch and to the Argentine Congress for their approval.
- 3 warehouses and 4 silos have been built, totalling 1300 square metres, for the storage of waste

resulting from dismantling of components during the works to extend the useful life of the Power Plants.

- A “Long-term Storage Warehouse” has been built in order to treat and store the waste generated by nuclear facilities.
- Radiochemical techniques have been developed in order to identify and quantify radionuclides with a view to expanding the information available on the radiological inventory of radioactive waste.
- A “Laboratory for the Characterization of Radioactive Waste” has been built.

- Projects for the environmental restoration of the areas where industrial uranium mining activities were carried out have been implemented.
- As original part in the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, Argentina celebrates the imminent entry into force of this international tool which is vital to establish a world responsible regimen in order to encourage regional and worldwide cooperation to promote a higher grade of safety according to international principles of association and solidarity.
- Over the last ten years, Argentina has entered into Agreements, Treaties and Memorandum of

cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and non-proliferation with the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Federative Republic of Brazil, India, South Africa, Bolivia, Uruguay, Ecuador, Cuba, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Italia, Jordan, Libya, Algeria, Vietnam and Australia.

Argentina's geopolitical openness demonstrates its willingness to form peaceful partnerships and its commitment to nuclear development for exclusively peaceful purposes, by complying with international safety and non-proliferation regimes. There is no doubt that it is essential to strengthen joint work, offer new

investment opportunities and continue to show the world the goals attained and the safety levels with which this activity is carried out. The International Atomic Energy Agency plays a central role into this process.

Mr. President: Argentina is following this path with firm determination and is willing and prepared to assume mayor responsibilities and challenges in the nuclear scene in the next years.

THANK YOU!