

**59TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

CANADIAN STATEMENT

Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of the Government of Canada, I congratulate you on your election as President of the 59th General Conference. I assure you and the Secretariat of the Canadian delegation's full support in making this conference a success. Canada is also pleased to welcome the Agency's newest members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas and Turkmenistan.

Mr. President,

I would like to begin with an issue of utmost importance to the Government of Canada, which has commanded considerable attention in the international community, and which we expect will continue to do so for years to come: **Iran's nuclear program**. Canada appreciates the efforts of the EU 3+3 to reach a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). At the same time, we continue to judge Iran by its actions and not its words. Iran's track record does not instill confidence. We will continue to support the essential role of the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor and verify Iran's commitments under the Joint Plan of Action and the newly agreed JCPOA.

We are following with equal care the implementation of the "*Roadmap for Clarification of Past and Present Outstanding Issues*" agreed between the IAEA and Iran in July, aimed at addressing the Possible Military Dimensions (PMDs) of Iran's nuclear program. A meaningful resolution of the PMD issue is integral to the

purpose of the JCPOA, namely to ensure that Iran's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful in nature, and for the international community to have every confidence that this is the case. The *Roadmap* requires that the Director General produce a final assessment in December 2015. It is essential that this report provide a clear and unambiguous assessment of Iran's past activities. However this will only be possible if Iran cooperates fully with the IAEA's investigation. Anything less than full and forthright cooperation by Iran would be of deep concern, and would, in our view, raise serious questions about Iran's ability and willingness to implement the commitments it has made under the JCPOA.

Of similar concern, Mr. President, are the proliferation activities undertaken by **North Korea** including since last year's General Conference. We welcome the Director General's recent report on the issue, and are concerned both by the possible restart of facilities at Yongbyon, including the operation of the 5 megawatt reactor, and by work aimed at the construction of a light water reactor. Canada regrets continued provocations by North Korea, including threats to conduct further nuclear tests. North Korea's recent claims to have successfully carried out a submarine-based missile launch and the miniaturization of a nuclear weapon are worrying. Canada strongly condemns North Korea's uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing activities, and urges North Korea to return to full compliance with its NPT obligations and its safeguards agreement with the IAEA. We support the IAEA's continued efforts to monitor the nuclear situation in North Korea, as well as its preparedness to return to North Korea to verify nuclear activities in that country. We call upon all Member States in a position to do so to support the IAEA in this mission.

Mr. President,

It was over four years ago that the Board of Governors reported **Syria** to the UN Security Council over the clandestine construction of a nuclear reactor at Dair Alzour. Since then, the Syrian authorities have failed to cooperate with the Agency, despite having had ample opportunity to do so. The IAEA regularly reports to the Board that its requests for access to Dair Alzour and the three other locations functionally related to that reactor, have not been accepted by the Syrian regime.

Mr. President,

I would like to underscore our long held view that the situation in Syria, while grave and of deep concern to us all, is no excuse for Syria's non-compliance with its safeguards obligations. The IAEA must remain seized of this matter until the unresolved questions of Syria's past activities are definitively answered. Canada once again calls on Syria to cooperate with the Agency and to comply fully with Syria's Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations.

Mr. President,

Regarding the evolution of the implementation of safeguards, Canada welcomes the Secretariat's continuing efforts to enhance Member State awareness of safeguards practices and procedures. This work continues to improve understanding and helps to dispel the remaining myths regarding **the State-Level Concept** (SLC). In our view, the SLC allows the Agency to maintain and improve effectiveness while concentrating its efforts on areas of greater safeguards significance. We continue to encourage the IAEA to pursue these important efforts

to strengthen the safeguards system and ensure it remains sustainable and cost effective.

Mr. President,

The **Nuclear Security** Summit (NSS) process continues to provide important support to the work of the IAEA to strengthen nuclear security and combat the threat of nuclear terrorism. Beyond honouring the specific commitments Canada has made at the Summits, we have taken further steps at domestic and international levels to demonstrate our ongoing leadership and commitment to nuclear security. In this regard, I am pleased to note that Canada will host an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission to Canada next month, which we are confident will once again demonstrate the high level of physical protection to which Canadian nuclear materials are subject, as well as our commitment to transparency on these important issues. Additionally, Canada continues to support nuclear security programming, including contributions of since more than \$20.6 million to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund since 2004.

The IAEA will continue to be a trusted partner for Canada in the implementation of our Nuclear Security Summit commitments. Canada actively supports the NSS process of developing “Action Plans” that will transition NSS commitments to the key international institutions engaged in promoting nuclear security, in particular the IAEA.

Mr. President,

Nuclear power continues to be a key part of Canada's energy mix, currently contributing approximately 15% of Canada's overall electricity supply. Nuclear energy is a reliable and cost-competitive contributor to Canada's energy supply, and continues to play an important role in developing a clean energy future for Canada in support of our climate change mitigation actions. Indeed, while Canada's production of nuclear power enjoyed modest growth between 2005 and 2012, it has significantly contributed to our electricity system being recognised as one of the cleanest in the world, with almost 80% of our electricity supply already emitting no greenhouse gas emissions. The refurbishment of 10 CANDU reactors over the next 15 years is expected to begin in 2016. These refurbishments represent a total investment of about 25 billion Canadian dollars and will add about 25-30 years to the operational life of each unit further contributing to climate change mitigation efforts in Canada.

Mr. President,

Turning to **nuclear safety** issues, we welcome the Director General's report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident. We hope that the forty-five Observations and Lessons included in the report can be prioritized by means of discussion in appropriate international forums, to quickly identify those requiring action in the short-term. Canada also recommends that a multi-year Nuclear Safety Strategy, identifying the priorities, deliverables, and timelines for the various Departments and Divisions of the Agency, be prepared to facilitate the transition of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety into the regular work of the Agency. I would note that Canada was pleased to make both in-kind and financial contributions to the preparation of the

Fukushima Daiichi report and will continue to work with the Agency to continue to strength nuclear safety. Canada would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Japan on taking steps to restart its reactors under new safety standards that take into account lessons learned.

Mr. President,

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) continues to regulate the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect the health, safety and security of all Canadians and the environment. Over the past year, the Commission has held major public hearings for the renewal of operating licenses for the Darlington and Bruce nuclear generating stations.

Mr. President,

Canada strongly endorses the principles of openness and transparency in nuclear safety. In this regard, the CNSC continues to engage the Canadian public in discussions on nuclear safety through its use of various social media tools and their participant funding program. Canada encourages all Member States to host international peer reviews and to make those results public, as well as National Reports under the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Canada continues to contribute substantially to international nuclear safety by leading, participating and hosting IAEA review missions, and encourage others to do the same. Furthermore, Canada encourages the operators of nuclear facilities to engage in peer review missions through organizations like the World Association of Nuclear Operators.

Canada also welcomes adoption of the Vienna Declaration by Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS). We believe the Principles it contains describe a clear path towards further strengthening the implementation of the CNS. We will report on Canada's implementation of the Declaration at the forthcoming seventh Review Meeting of the Convention and look forward to hearing from other Contracting Parties in that regard.

As a further testament of Canada's commitment to advancing openness and transparency in the field of nuclear safety, I am pleased to announce that Canada has put forward a candidate for the position of President of the 7th Review Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. We are confident that Mr. Ramzi Jammal, Executive Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, would bring the expertise and experience necessary to conduct successfully the Review Conference and advance its objectives.

Mr. President,

Strengthening the international **emergency preparedness and response** framework remains an important aspect of the Agency's work. In this regard Canada welcomes the creation of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee to facilitate a coordinated approach to emergency preparedness and response across the safety standards programme. The Secretariat can anticipate robust participation by Canada in this new committee.

Canada welcomes the entry into force of the **Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage** earlier this year.

Mr. President,

I would like to thank Director General Amano and the entire Secretariat for the professionalism and dedication demonstrated over the course of the past year. Canada commends Director General Amano for his leadership, particularly those efforts aimed at identifying savings and efficiencies in the operations of the Secretariat. The ongoing commitment to budget discipline demonstrated in his Programme and Budget proposal for the next biennium is most welcome.

In closing, Canada believes that the IAEA has made tremendous strides in continuing to ensure the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We are grateful for the Secretariat's expert contribution to those efforts, and will lend our full support to ensuring a successful General Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.