

# Statement by FINLAND

## International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 30 October–1 November 2017, organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency in cooperation with the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates through the Ministry of Energy and Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation.

Liisa Heikinheimo, Dr.

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Mr president,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland would like to thank the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as the Ministry of Energy and the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) for hosting this important conference and to congratulate you, Mr. President, for chairing it.

Finland celebrates her 100 years of independence this year. It has been a long road from a poor agrarian society to a modern welfare society.

Energy plays a key role in the development of any nation state. Questions related to access to energy, security of supply as well as sustainability are essential to all states. Finland has not been an exception.

Nuclear energy has an important role in the Finnish energy pallet; almost 30% of electricity produced in Finland comes from the two operating nuclear power sites. Today there are several license applications in process in Finland:

- one construction license application for a new nuclear power plant Fennovoima Hanhikivi 1
- one new operating license application for TVO Olkiluoto 3 unit and
- operating license application to renew the license from 40 years to 60 years of operation for Olkiluoto 1 and 2 units.

These licenses will be handled in the Government within the years 2018-2019. At the same time IAEA is carrying out an OSART programme for each of the Finnish nuclear power units, first one in this year and the last one in 2019. The OSART peer review programme will also support our licensing, and our ministry sees this very valuable and wishes to thank for this international work already at this point.

Nuclear waste management is an essential part of responsible and sustainable use of nuclear energy. The construction of a disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel which is the first of its kind in the world is currently ongoing in Finland and scheduled to be operational in the first half of 2020's. This underground repository will meet strict safety, security and safeguards requirements.

Globally the role of nuclear energy production in reducing the CO2 emissions is strong, the production is base load type and reliable. The use of nuclear energy and applications require high level expertise as well as safety, security and safeguards culture and architecture. To answer these challenges international co-operation is important to share lessons learned and best practices within the IAEA and the Nuclear Energy Agency.

Thank you, Mr. President.