

GERMANY

Rede

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Nuclear Power in the 21st Century

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in Abu Dhabi

The spoken word applies!

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The IAEA plays a central role in nearly every question that arises in the context of nuclear energy and technology.

And Germany is a long standing constructive and reliable partner of the Secretariat and all Member States.

We therefore welcome the initiative of the United Arab Emirates to host this IAEA Ministerial Conference, as it offers the opportunity to discuss perspectives and share experiences in the broad area of nuclear energy, including the whole fuel cycle.

Germany decided to phase out its nuclear power production by the end of 2022.

At the same time, Germany respects the sovereign right of every country to choose its own energy mix and – of course – supply.

Transforming the German energy system consists of three pillars:

- first, increasing energy efficiency,
- second, increasing the share of renewables, and
- third, the flexible management of the future grids, supply and demand, in close cooperation with our neighbours.

As for the German nuclear sector, the political activities were focussed this year on the implementation of new regulations for the back-end of the fuel cycle.

These changes will lead to a more efficient separation of responsibilities between private operators and state institutions.

First, a new search for the location for final disposal was started and two state owned companies for the interim and for the final disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste have been founded.

Secondly, the operators of Nuclear Power Plants contributed more than 24 billion Euros into a public fund.

This fund will finance the cost of interim and final disposal.

So from now on the German state is completely responsible for the interim and final disposal of waste from nuclear power plants.

The NPP-operators will remain responsible for operation, dismantling and decommissioning of the plants.

A number of nuclear power plants in Germany have been fully decommissioned, already, or are in the phase of decommissioning.

The shut-down of plants during the next years will add to German operator's and regulator's know-how in the area of the safe handling of the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle.

The specialized industry will increase its capacities to handle this task.

We are confident that lessons learned from this process in Germany, can contribute to the ongoing and future international discussions and evaluation of solutions in this area.

Let me highlight that - beyond power production - Germany will continue to strive for a leading position in the use of nuclear technologies, for example in medicine and in research.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
as you know, on the 24 September elections of the members of the German Federal Parliament took place. Now exploratory talks between potential coalition partners for a new government are underway. Results of these negotiations are not expected before end of this year.

Thank you for your attention.