

STATEMENT

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POLAND

on the occasion of the

**NUCLEAR POWER IN THE 21 ST CENTURY
INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

Abu Dhabi

Mr President, Mr Director General, distinguished Guests

Please let me first express my gratitude to the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the excellent organization of this Ministerial Conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the progress in the implementation of nuclear power.

Mr. President, distinguished Guests

In January 2014, the Council of Ministers adopted the Polish Nuclear Power Programme – a strategic document containing the „road map” to developing nuclear power.

Currently the Polish government is completing the update of the Programme, which envisages the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Poland.

The decision regarding the updated Programme will be taken by the Government by the end of this year. This decision will also cover the issue of financing of the nuclear power project.

Next year in the first quarter it is planned to announce the international tender for technology provider.

Having that in mind, in 2018 Poland will invite the IAEA Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review after reaching the Milestone for Phase 2.

The decision to develop nuclear power in Poland was taken mainly due to energy security reasons, especially with the aim to secure the long-term electricity supply at rational costs, while respecting the environmental protection policy. This will translate into significant savings in terms of annual emissions of CO₂ and other pollutants in the Polish electricity generation sector. I also believe that clean, non-intermittent and cost effective nuclear energy will fill the gap in the energy supplies resulting from the steep development of electromobility.

I would like to underline that the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Poland has now support of the majority of the Polish citizens according to the opinion polls.

It is also worth to mention that implementation of nuclear power goes far beyond the NPPs construction or supplementing the Polish energy mix with nuclear energy. It will also provide a boost to the economic, social and regional development. The highest requirements and

standards for nuclear power will have a positive impact on the development of the Polish power sector and industry's technical and safety culture. With the development of scientific and industrial facilities the new industry will be created employing highly qualified specialists.

Localization, that is increasing the involvement of the Polish industry, is one of the important issues of the Polish Nuclear Power Programme. Poland does not have nuclear technology and therefore will have to import it. However, one of the main goals of the Polish government is ensuring a significant engagement of Polish companies as subcontractors in the project.

It's important to highlight, however, that Poland does not start from the scratch but can take advantage of and build upon the vast experience of Polish competencies obtained in other, also highly demanding, sectors, like petro chemistry, conventional energy, renewable, off-shore. It is also worth to mention that various Polish companies are already part of international nuclear supply chains for NPP projects in Europe as well as in other parts of the world.

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates,

I would also like to bring to your attention that Poland does not only look at the currently available nuclear technologies but also considers the future development of new nuclear technologies.

In order to implement this approach, in 2016 we established the advisory committee for the Deployment of High Temperature Reactor (HTR). This body completed this year its task and produced a final report with conclusions supporting the implementation of HTRs as source of industrial heat. That report was accepted by the Minister of Energy and further action will be undertaken in this respect next year.

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates,

In the course of implementing the nuclear power programme Poland fully respects international law and EU regulations as well as guidelines and recommendation of the IAEA and other international organizations.

This year, in October, Poland hosted, as a first IAEA country, ARTEMIS mission, that is the Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation. The review provided an independent international

evaluation of the National Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Plan and the national framework for executing country's obligations for safe and sustainable radioactive waste and spent fuel management. The mission noted that Poland has long standing experience in maintaining the waste and spent fuel inventory and has established a good basis for the safe and responsible management thereof.

Mr President, distinguished Delegates,

Please let me conclude by stressing that Poland considers nuclear power as a vital part of its future energy mix and as a reliable source of electricity, which will contribute to the fulfillment of the climate policy goals.

Thank you for your attention.