



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
VIENNA

STATEMENT BY FINLAND

59th General Conference of the IAEA

General debate

H.E. Ambassador Anu Laamanen
Governor of Finland

Mr President,

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the 59th General Conference. I assure you of the full support of my delegation. I also wish to thank the outgoing President, H.E. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez for his excellent work and guidance in the General Conference last year. Further, I express my gratitude to the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their continued professional and impartial work.

I associate myself fully with the statement made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr President,

According to the latest IAEA statistics 438 **nuclear power** reactors in 30 countries worldwide are generating electricity. In addition, 67 new nuclear power reactors are under construction in 15 countries, including in Finland. Nuclear power plants provide about 11 percent of the world's electricity, and 18 percent of electricity in OECD countries. These statistics demonstrate that nuclear power continues to be an important element of the energy mix in many countries. This is the case also in Finland. The Olkiluoto 3 nuclear power plant is entering into the commissioning phase and Fennovoima applied for the construction license for the Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power plant in June. Both of them, together with increased renewable energy, will play a very important role in the electricity production and in achieving our emission reduction targets. They also support the long term energy policy goal of the Government of Finland to achieve coal free electricity production.

Mr President,

Nuclear waste management strategy should always be considered from the very beginning of the development of a nuclear power programme.

Finland is currently licensing a final underground repository for spent nuclear fuel, called "Onkalo". It will make use of the most advanced technology that has in main part been developed in Finland. It will meet strict safety, security and safeguards requirements. The Government of Finland is expected to take a decision on the construction license application by the end of this year. This would be the first construction license issued for the final disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel globally. The encapsulation and final disposal process of spent fuel is scheduled to start in the beginning of 2020's.

Mr President,

The threat of nuclear weapons proliferation continues to be a serious concern and the international community must take appropriate measures in the cases of non-compliance in order to preserve the integrity of the non-proliferation regime and its cornerstone, the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT). The universalization of the Treaty and full compliance with the Treaty's provisions are of utmost importance.

We regret that consensus could not be reached on a final document at this year's NPT Review Conference. We should now focus on practical ways and means to facilitate the realisation of the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In the Middle East, the goal of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) remains as topical as ever. Finland has made a material contribution to further that goal through the efforts of Ambassador Jaakko Laajava to facilitate a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. As a result of these efforts a channel was open for regional dialogue on issues of primary importance for the security of the Middle East. Now, the States of the region have the driver's seat.

The IAEA safeguards system is an indispensable part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Finland has consistently underlined that the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, should be accepted universally as the international verification standard. Finland calls upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and to ratify the Additional Protocol without delay.

Finland supports the further implementation of the Agency's safeguards system based on the state-level concept. Finland continues to provide extra budgetary support to the IAEA safeguards. Through the national Support Programme to the IAEA Safeguards, Finland has until today contributed more than 7 million euro to the development of the IAEA safeguards.

Finland welcomes the agreement reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between the E3/EU+3 and Iran on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and gives full support to the IAEA in implementing the necessary verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments as set out in the JCPOA.

In line with our continued commitment to the Agency's safeguards work, the Government of Finland is planning to provide an additional financial contribution of 200 000 euro for the implementation of the IAEA's monitoring and verification activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to the JPA and to the preparation for and implementation of the JCPOA. This brings Finland's total support to the IAEA's monitoring and verification activities to 600 000 euro. We look forward to the swift implementation by Iran of all its commitments in relation to the JPA and JCPOA and Iran engaging fully with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues, in order to build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme.

Mr President,

We attach great importance to the improvement of **nuclear safety** and Finland has consistently supported the Agency's activities in this area. It is essential that countries using nuclear power, or embarking on nuclear power, have a sound legislative and regulatory framework on nuclear and radiation safety. The roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders need to be clear. The regulatory bodies need to be given the required resources, authority and independence in their decision making. The regulatory authority must also enjoy the trust of the stakeholders, in particular the citizens.

Finland has made extensive use of different IAEA's nuclear safety peer review services and contributed actively to the conduct and development of these services. We are very pleased with these services and we strongly encourage other states to

make full use of them. An Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) follow-up mission was conducted successfully in June in Finland.

Finland welcomes the IAEA's comprehensive report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident. We also acknowledge that the implementation of IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety is nearing completion. Finland has committed to improve nuclear safety both nationally and internationally based on the lessons learnt from the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Finland has actively participated in the international co-operation concerning the lessons learnt. Activities include the implementation of the European stress tests, participation in the discussions on strengthening CNS and its review process and the related Diplomatic Conference, and in formulating the Vienna declaration on Nuclear Safety. We are committed to the target that the Declaration would be translated into concrete safety requirements in the IAEA Safety Standards and that during the next and forthcoming CNS review meetings the discussions would focus on the safety improvements needed at the operating NPPs to meet the goal of the Declaration.

Mr President,

The **security of nuclear materials and facilities** is also given a high priority in my country. Finland promotes further ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and bringing into force the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Finland has ratified the Amendment and encourages all States parties to do so.

My government continues to provide financial and in-kind support to the IAEA's Nuclear Security activities. In addition to the collective EU contribution, Finland is a longstanding contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund (NSF). I am pleased to announce that Finland will provide an additional contribution [of 50 000 €] to the Nuclear Security Fund for 2016

We should all make better use of the IAEA nuclear security peer review services, in particular IPPAS and INSServ missions, and of existing nuclear security guidance, as well as commit ourselves to follow-up the findings of the missions.

Finland has taken actively part in the Nuclear Security Summit process and in other relevant international processes. The unanimous view in NSS process seems to be that the IAEA will have a key role in the follow-up and in making irreversible the progress that has been achieved in the NSS process.

Combating nuclear terrorism remains a priority and Finland contributed to this work by hosting the Plenary of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in June this year.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I want to thank the IAEA for its work contributing to international peace and security, and assure the Agency of our continuous support for its valuable work in promoting safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

Thank you, Mr President.