

GERMANY

Rede

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anlässlich der
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Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

Sperrfrist: Beginn der Rede!

Mister President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I.

Mr. President,
On behalf of my government, I
congratulate you on your election as
President of the fifty-ninth IAEA
General Conference.

I fully endorse the statement of the
European Union.

Germany welcomes the approval by the General Conference of the applications for membership by Turkmenistan, Barbados as well as Antigua and Barbuda.

II.

Mr. President,

The IAEA plays a central role in nearly every question that arises in the context of nuclear technology and Germany will continue to be a constructive partner of the Secretariat and all Member States.

Germany decided to phase out nuclear power by the end of 2022. At the same time, Germany respects the sovereign right of every country to choose its own energy mix and supply, whether with or without nuclear energy.

Our energy policy goals remain very ambitious.

In the future, Germany's energy supply is to be based predominantly on renewable resources.

Transforming our energy system consists of three pillars:

- Increasing the share of renewables,
- increasing energy efficiency,
- and making future grids more flexible.

This has many benefits:

- Switching to renewables is cost-efficient and environmentally friendly
- Increasing energy efficiency comprises both reducing overall consumption and improving efficiency.
- Grids as the backbone need to be enlarged and made more flexible to allow for the integration of electricity from renewable energy sources.

- Furthermore we have intensified energy research and innovation for a successful energy transition.

However Germany will continue to be involved in nuclear power for years. Nuclear power plants in Germany will produce until 2022. At the same time, nuclear safety remains relevant with a view to foreign nuclear power plants. Thus / However safe nuclear technology and cooperation with our partners in this area will remain highly important for Germany.

Let me stress that Germany will continue to attach particular importance to nuclear security. Our

high level of nuclear security will be maintained and, if necessary, strengthened and enhanced.

In addition, Germany is now focussing on the back-end of the fuel-cycle.

Permanently shut down reactors will have to be immediately dismantled.

Treatment and disposal of the waste will take several more decades.

This area does not only imply technological and political challenges.

In addition, we need financial guarantees that the operators are capable to shoulder the future costs of dismantling of the installations and disposal of the nuclear waste.

Beyond power production the use of nuclear technology in other areas in particular in industry, medical and other research will further increase and Germany will continue to strive for a leading position. The Research Reactor of the Technical University in Munich is a backbone in this respect.

Innovative high-tech components and materials for nuclear applications are developed and produced in Germany. Basic research, material development, medicine, energy storage and semiconductor production are just some of the fields for nuclear applications.

III.

Mr. President,

Budget negotiations are always important.

As you know, Germany has been advocating a nominal zero-growth line in all international organisations in order to appropriately balance public expenditure in times of continuing global financial uncertainties and additional budgetary burdens.

Mr. President,

Beyond its share to the regular budget
Germany contributes to specific needs
of the IAEA:

Since 2011 Germany donated around
five million euros to the IAEA Nuclear
Security Fund and more than 6,5
million euros for the ECAS project to
modernize the Safeguards Analytical
Laboratory in Seibersdorf.

Now the Agency is promoting a new and sophisticated investment project called ReNuAL [Renovation of IAEA Nuclear Application Laboratories]. - the initiative to modernize and renovate the laboratories of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications in Seibersdorf.

The German Permanent Representative is co-chairing the working group of Member States for this matter.

Germany had supported the modernization of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf in 2014 with an extrabudgetary contribution of almost €1.6 million. And I am pleased to inform you today that Germany is

considering to support this project in this year again with a financial contribution through the IAEA PUI – the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

We appeal to all Member States who are in the financial position to do so, to make a financial contribution to ReNuAL or to another important PUI project.

Mr. President,

Germany attaches considerable importance to measures aiming at improving transparency, efficiency and effectiveness, not only related to the budget, but in particular related to the management of the Agency, and we appreciate the

continued efforts of the Director General in this regard.

IV.

Mr. President,

I would like to underline the extraordinary importance of effective and efficient IAEA-safeguards.

That is why Germany funds one of the first national support programmes for IAEA safeguards. This autumn the German Support Programme is to celebrate its 38th anniversary.

It contributed successfully to state-of-the-art verification methods and techniques and provided training, expert advice and consultancy to the IAEA Secretariat and Member States.

In addition, with regard to the Secretariats initiative to expand the Network of Analytical Laboratories, the German Government nominated the Forschungszentrum Jülich as a candidate for membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency's Network of Analytical Laboratories (NWAL).

Mr. President,

Germany is pleased, that to this day the IAEA applies safeguards in 179 States. And we note that in between 126 States with Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements also have an Additional Protocol in force.

For these States the Agency can provide assurances that there are no indications of undeclared nuclear material or activities [in the respective State].

We welcome the fact that some more countries have joined this group since the last General Conference.

And we urge all other States that have not done so yet to enter into an Additional Protocol.

In the light of the continuing growth in verification demand worldwide and the need for cost-effectiveness we welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to improve the implementation of safeguards.

At the same time, we support the further evolution of individual state-level approaches in a structured and objective manner, considering both the technical situation and the legal and institutional structures within a State.

This should continue also to more cost-effective safeguards measures within each state.

V.

Mr. President,

[Referring to] Nuclear safety

cooperation between regulators and a worldwide system of mutual controls have proven to be an important pillar in the international nuclear safety regime.

Valuable tools to promote these aspects are the three relevant Conventions together with self-assessments and international peer-reviews conducted in cooperation with the IAEA service known as integrated

regulatory review service (IRRS) missions. The revision of the IRRS Guidelines and the revision of the questionnaire for the self-assessment are highly appreciated. The scope must remain feasible also for small authorities. Furthermore, Germany particularly welcomes the Agency's activities in the framework of the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS), the Safety Standard Committees and the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Action Plan.

Germany has actively supported all these activities and will continue to do so in the future.

VI.

Mr. President,

On nuclear security, Germany highly appreciates the Agency's activities in particular the efforts made to encourage States to ratify the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM, the most important instrument for enhancing nuclear security worldwide. As others have done before, Germany will also use its diplomatic means to convince remaining potential partners to ratify the Convention as well as its Amendment. In that respect: better late than never!

Germany welcomes the Agency's efforts to address the growing needs for cyber security considerations in the nuclear security regimes. An essential contribution to this was – without a doubt – the organisation of the outstanding International Conference on Computer Security in June 2015 and we appreciate it that another Conference will be hosted by the Agency in 2016. With a view to the paramount importance of nuclear security and growing challenges to protect nuclear installations and materials from terrorist attacks my delegation will advocate for a high-level representation of member states at that important conference.

The 2016 Conference will take place after the Nuclear Security Summit hosted by the United States of America earlier next year. My delegation is convinced that the year 2016 will offer a historic window of opportunity to further strengthen the international nuclear security architecture. Obviously, the Agency does and must play a major role in this process. Germany appreciates that perspective, but it must also be clear that the Agency needs the necessary support from its member states in order to fulfil its role in that respect.

We further commit to report on the progress achieved in these areas in

the context of the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit and of the 2016 IAEA Nuclear Security Conference.

Germany fully agrees with the outcomes of this conference and will continue to support the IAEA in the development of additional computer security guidance within the Nuclear Security Series – in particular at the recommendations level.

On the safety and security of high activity radioactive sources, Germany commits to working with all Member States, in close consultation with the IAEA, to establish a roadmap of actions and cooperation in the next two years in the following areas:

- Further strengthening and expanding support for the international framework of conventions and IAEA guidelines relevant to the safety and security of in particular high activity radioactive sources throughout their life cycle;
- Supporting the development and use of alternatives to high activity radioactive sources;
- Enhancing the efforts of the Ad hoc Group of States that are Major Suppliers of Radioactive Sources to further strengthen and harmonize supplier state activities to improve the safety and security of high risk radioactive sources.

VII.

Mr. President,

Once again I would like to underline that Germany greatly appreciates the valuable assistance that the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme provides to Member States in areas like health – especially cancer treatment –, water management, agriculture and environmental protection.

We will continue to support the Agency's efforts in this regard. One aspect is our support for ReNuAL and we will continue to try to increase cooperation in concrete projects.

VIII.

Mr. President,

The International Project on Innovative Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) was established in 2000 with Germany as a founding member. We once again commend the INPRO team for their achievements.

In coordination with other international initiatives, INPRO serves

as an essential forum for exchange on national approaches to nuclear infrastructure, emphasising the importance of long term strategic planning and global dialogue.

IX.

Mr. President,

The implementation of Multilateral Approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle remains an important task. The establishment of the IAEA LEU bank appears to be a very challenging task, especially with regard to operation, safeguards and the future operational costs. However, the Board of Governors agreed that the LEU bank must not affect the proper functioning of the nuclear fuel market.

X.

Mr. President,

Germany regrets that the last Review Conference of the NPT could not agree on a final document with new

guidelines for the next steps to take. As a consequence, the detailed, forward-looking 2010-NPT Action Plan remains the yardstick to measure progress. Germany believes that the failure of the Review Conference gives us every reason to push even harder for progress across the three pillars of the Treaty. After all, the NPT remains the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime and the foundation of nuclear disarmament. The agreement of the E3+3 with Iran has reminded us of how relevant the Treaty really is.

XI.

Mr. President,

Regarding the dispute about Iran's nuclear programme the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed by the E3/EU+3 and Iran on 14 July in Vienna will ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme through mutually determined limitations as well as unprecedented transparency and will be a cornerstone for nuclear non-proliferation in the region and beyond. I am convinced that the Vienna Agreement will lead to greater security in the world and in particular for Iran's neighbours. It is now up to the E3/EU+3 and Iran to secure a timely and effective implementation of the Vienna agreement. At the same time we call upon Iran to fully cooperate

with the International Atomic Energy Agency on the verification of its nuclear activities and to fully implement the road map for clarification of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear program.

XII.

Mr. President,
unfortunately, not much has changed since we last condemned North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programme last year. It continues to remain a threat to regional and international security. North Korea cannot gain the security or prosperity it wants without stopping its provocative nuclear and missile activities.

Proliferation to and from North Korea continues to be alarming. We call upon all states to strictly comply with their obligations under the UN Security Council Resolutions and to

clearly signal Pyongyang that nuclear brinkmanship will not be tolerated. Our goal remains to bring North Korea into compliance with all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks.

XIII.

Mr. President,

To sum up my remarks:

Nuclear technologies need intensive international collaboration and oversight.

We are grateful for the successful work of the IAEA.

We also look forward to continuing our constructive cooperation with the Secretariat and with [all] Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.