

STATEMENT

by Janusz Wlodarski

President

of the National Atomic Energy Agency

Head of the Delegation

POLAND

on the occasion of

59th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, 2015

Mr. President,

Mr. Director General,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Polish Delegation, I take a great pleasure in joining my previous distinguished speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, on the assumption of your significant and demanding role as the President of the fifty-ninth annual session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I would like to pass my highest appreciation to the Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano and his staff, for the professional way in which they manage and organize the session of this year's Conference.

The Polish Delegation fully shares the comments made by the distinguished representative of the Luxemburg Presidency to the Council of the European Union on behalf of the European Union.

The Government of Poland would like to extend particular greetings to the new members in Agency - Guyana, Vanuatu, Republic of Djibouti, and to applicants for membership – Barbados, Turkmenistan, Antigua & Barbuda.

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates,

Recognizing the importance of peaceful nuclear cooperation, as well as nuclear safety and security, Poland reaffirms its full support for the International Atomic Energy Agency in accomplishing of its mission. We would like to underline that Poland is the signatory to all significant conventions and treaties regarding broad aspects of nuclear safety and security, radiation protection, non-proliferation and radiation monitoring.

Poland is engaged in the development of various peaceful applications of ionizing radiation in medicine, industry and research. These activities are conducted under proper supervision; nevertheless we constantly work on maintaining the best possible radiation protection and security of ionizing sources and radioactive materials. Nowadays the country is actively pursuing

to assure effective physical protection of radioactive sources. All actions taken, and guidance provided by the IAEA act as a superb roadmap for that improvement. The support and development received from the Agency in this regard is of special importance.

I am pleased to announce that this year we have extended the operating license of Polish research reactor MARIA for another 10 years. This will allow Poland to continue its contribution to the world market of the medical radioisotopes by Molybdenum supplies, as well as to further participate and deepen the knowledge in the nuclear sciences.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that the shipment of high enriched uranium spent fuel from the Polish Research Reactor MARIA to the Russian Federation was successfully completed last year. The remaining high enriched uranium spent fuel is stored in the reactor technological pool, and is expected to be shipped to the Russian Federation next year. Since September last year, the Research Reactor MARIA has been working solely on low enriched uranium fuel.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Polish Delegation takes a great pleasure in sharing with you the news regarding the Polish Nuclear Power Programme, which was adopted by the Government of Poland early last year. Until now, the government has amended all of the necessary legal acts, creating comprehensive legal framework for siting, construction and operation of the first Polish Nuclear Power Plant.

Poland intends to build two nuclear power plants with a total number of four to five units by the middle of 2030's, and the combined output of 6000 megawatt electric. The first unit is expected to go online in the mid-twenties, and the integrated tender for the technology supply for the Nuclear Power Programme is also expected to be launched at the end of this year.

I would like to note, that the Government of Poland will adopt the National Plan for the Radioactive Waste Management this year. Furthermore, the Human Resources Development Plan for the Needs of Nuclear Power as well as the Public Campaign Plan are in the final stage of preparation.

Speaking about the public campaign, it is worth to inform that the last opinion polls done in November/December last year showed that 58% of respondents support the nuclear power in Poland. In the potential locations of NPPs app.

70% - 80% of respondents have positive attitude towards the construction of the NPP.

Mr. President, Dear Delegates,

The implementation of the Polish Nuclear Power Programme is an ongoing challenge for Poland. Within the past two years both the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review and the Integrated Regulatory Review Service missions were conducted. As a result, several recommendations and suggestions on how to address this challenge were offered and are currently being addressed to the best possible degree. Furthermore, the follow-up of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service is planned to be implemented for the year 2017.

To ensure that Poland meets the highest physical protection system requirements, according to the international guidelines and best practices, the International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission is expected to be conducted in the first quarter of 2016. Its main goal is to assess the implemented solutions for the security of nuclear facilities.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the main challenges in regard to the Polish Nuclear Power Programme is to strengthen the position of Polish nuclear regulatory authority as a modern, professional and fully transparent regulatory body, being capable of taking up on new tasks related to the planned construction of the first Nuclear Power Plant.

To accommodate this need, a new form of training of the Polish regulatory body experts has been successfully implemented this year – the On-the-job trainings in the foreign regulatory bodies. This year the Polish regulator has sent its 14 staff members to participate in the personalized long-term trainings in the regulatory authorities in France, Canada, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. These trainings, in the fields of nuclear licensing and inspection, as well as emergency preparedness, are planned to be continued.

I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Regulatory Cooperation Forum for its cooperation with Poland. This cooperation is regarded as essential for providing the opportunity for training of the Polish regulatory authority experts.

Mr. President,

Poland has always attached the great importance to the role of Technical Cooperation in relations between the Agency and its Member States. Our long lasting goal, to maintain the active participation in all dimensions of the Technical Cooperation is always of top importance. In the next cycle of the years 2016-2017, Poland aims to run three national programmes, which will be of great importance to implement the national priorities in nuclear safety and nuclear energy. While focusing on nuclear safety and nuclear power areas, Poland is also active at the Technical Cooperation national and regional level in other areas, like human health and applications of isotope and radiation technology in industry.

Mr. President,

Poland strongly supports the application of the "due account" principle and is fully committed to paying of the Technical Cooperation Fund targets, as well as national participation costs on time and in full amount, to remain in its good contributor status. Nevertheless, I would like to express our concern related to the significant increase in the amount of Poland's contribution to the Agency. If such a situation continues, covering our share of contribution will increasingly become a challenge for our country.

And finally Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two additional points on the political developments and events related to the IAEA day-to-day activities.

Despite the lack of successful outcome of this year's Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, let me draw your attention to the fact that Vienna Non Proliferation Treaty related matters, covered by works of Main Committee Two and Main Committee Three, contributed constructively to the legacy of the Treaty 2015 review process. We are of the opinion that they may be further exploited through our efforts to strengthen the IAEA safeguards system as well as through an application of the nuclear energy for solely peaceful purposes.

We also believe that the historic agreement of July 14th on Iranian nuclear program as well as the Road Map agreed by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the same day will be thoroughly implemented. The full and effective use of the IAEA verification measures as well as the necessary resources provided for can play an instrumental role in

the positive accomplishment of the accords agreed after several years of long and painstaking negotiations.

To conclude Mr. President, on behalf of the Polish Government, I am pleased to convey the full support of our country for the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the hope to continue in its activities.

Thank you for your attention.