



UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

59th IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

SPAIN

***Statement by H.E. Ambassador Gonzalo de Salazar
Permanent Representative of Spain
to the International Organizations in Vienna
(15th September 2015)***

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Let me first congratulate you on your election to preside over this Conference and assure you the full support of my delegation.

I would also like to welcome Turkmenistan, Antigua Barbuda and Barbados as new Member States of the IAEA.

Spain makes its own the statement delivered by the Head of the Delegation of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain considers that the universality of the NPT and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with the Additional Protocol set the frame to preserve global confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy framework.

A central issue in this area is Iran's nuclear dossier.

The Government of Spain has received with deep satisfaction the agreement reached in Vienna on July 14 between Iran, the European Union and the six negotiating countries, as well as Resolution 2231 of the Security Council of the United Nations. This resolution lays the foundations for ensuring the exclusively



peaceful purpose of Iran's nuclear program, strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime.

This agreement also confirms that negotiation and dialogue are the only way to resolve disputes, especially when you have to restore confidence.

Its implementation will take time and will need not only good faith and mutual trust from the parties and the international community, but also the strict monitoring of the verification provisions included in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

I want to reiterate the full readiness of Spain to collaborate within this forum and within the United Nations Security Council for the implementation of the Agreement, in which our Organization will play a crucial role.

We also urge its full implementation, the only way to restore confidence in the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program, taking into account the interests of all States in the region. Spain hopes that this agreement will serve to facilitate the full reintegration of Iran into the international community.

However, the undeclared nuclear facility in Syria is still a pending issue.

We are aware that both universality and compliance with the NPT provisions are vital questions and understand the particular sensitivity of these issues for many countries, especially those in the Middle East. It is therefore necessary to move towards the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region, with the aspiration of a world without nuclear weapons.

Like the rest of the international community, we demand that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea complies with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and support a diplomatic negotiation that contributes to greater security in the peninsula of Korea

Mr. Chairperson,

The threats to nuclear security require new measures, whose principles are reflected in the resolution co-sponsored by Spain together with the European Union, to be submitted to the Conference.

The entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials is a key step in this area, so we encourage Parties that have not yet done so, to ratify the Convention.



As a sign of its commitment, Spain currently chairs the 1540 Committee of the United Nations Security Council and actively participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Mr. Chairperson,

The energy policy of my government is based on the existence of a diversified, balanced and sustainable mix, which includes all the available energy sources.

Therefore, as long as the Spanish nuclear power plants meet the safety requirements established by our regulator on nuclear energy, they will continue to contribute to the energy supply, optimizing costs and reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses.

Our nuclear infrastructure ranks twelfth in the world, and in 2014, seven reactors have provided 20.5% of the electricity generated in Spain.

Since the last General Conference, the licensing process of a Centralized Temporary Storage of spent nuclear fuel and high level waste has continued, lead by the public company responsible for waste management in Spain, ENRESA. Last July 27th, our regulator issued a favourable report regarding the authorization of construction of this facility, while the decision on environmental impact assessment is still pending.

Mr. Chairperson,

The work of national regulatory bodies is essential. Our regulator, *Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear* (Nuclear Safety Council), actively contributes to numerous activities of the Agency, and it is deeply involved in planning, drafting and revising the IAEA standards, which include our best working practices.

Besides the need to have the best possible set of updated and precise international standards available, it is essential that they are taken into account in all countries using nuclear technologies. In this regard, the government of Spain supports strengthening the role of the IAEA to implement the means of promotion and supervision necessary to ensure that all Member States undertake, on a voluntary basis, the implementation of those standards and conduct peer reviews.

Spain meets its obligations under the main international conventions, and appreciates and shares the efforts by the IAEA to update the interpretation of those obligations to the current scenario.

Our regulator has continued making available to the Agency experts of a high standard for the preparation and undertaking Integrated Regulatory Review Service, IRRS, as well as other examination and consulting services.



The contribution of these international missions to strengthening the effectiveness of national regulatory frameworks for safety and security is undeniable. However, we would like to co-operate with the IAEA Secretariat to assure that missions remain a useful tool, without adding any burden to the already difficult national regulatory tasks. It strikes us as essential improvements for planning future missions to adapt the level of detail of the missions to the particularities of each country and previous missions, and facilitate as far as possible the phase of preparation thereof.

Mr. Chairperson,

Cooperation is key to addressing the challenges facing the international community. The Regional Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL, in Spanish) reflects our commitment in this region. As strategic partner Spain, through the Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology, developed with the IAEA interesting projects to identify the needs of the region in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Spain has agreed with Morocco a joint plan of action on cooperation which includes activities with the support of the IAEA that mutually reinforce our security. We are currently preparing the exercise "Gate of Africa" on maritime transport security, and hope to extend this cooperation model to other countries.

Our regulator has been involved in recent years in the financing, planning and development of technical cooperation programs dedicated to improving the regulatory infrastructure of the Latin American region and North Africa, and has led interregional activities in the Mediterranean area related to the control of radioactive sources.

Our regulator is also part, along other regulatory agencies in Latin America, to the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies, or FORO, which has been repeatedly recognized as a good example of regional cooperation in this field.

This year we can highlight FORO's contribution to radiation protection in medical applications, through guidelines developed jointly with the IAEA on patient protection and probabilistic safety assessment applied to radiotherapy. We also highlight the conclusion of the project on Radiation Safety Culture and the good results in the definition of competence, profile and training in nuclear reactor safety for regulator staff.

In the area of nuclear safety, we are pleased to report that FORO experts have evaluated positively the effect of measures implemented through the activity 'Resistance Assessments of Nuclear Power' in strengthening the safety of nuclear power plants in member countries, and also that the guidelines on "Life



extension of nuclear power plants” have been well received by the IAEA Secretariat and many Member States.

My delegation wishes to emphasize that General Conference resolutions have recognised the value of FORO activities and called on the IAEA Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with the FORO and other regional regulatory organizations and to promote the wider dissemination of the technical documents and results of the projects developed by such organizations.

Mr. Chairperson,

A concerted effort of the international community is needed to build trust, security and cooperation. We will successfully pursue our common interests only if we are able to adapt to new scenarios.

I wish to end by thanking the Director General's efforts in leading our Organization and reiterating, once again, the support of Spain.

Thank you.