

STATEMENT
By the Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
To the 59th Session of the IAEA General Conference,
(14-18 September 2014, Vienna)

Dear Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election to preside over the 59th Session of the General Conference of the IAEA. On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine, I would like also to congratulate other members on their election to high posts of the session and congratulate Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan on becoming Members of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. President,

Supporting the activity of the Agency aimed at ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, I would like to start by emphasizing the key role the IAEA plays in the non-proliferation of nuclear weapon, as well as the crucial importance of the Agency's Safeguards to ensure that the Member States meet their commitments according to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Ukraine is, and will remain committed to the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation, and fulfills consistently the obligations according to the Agreement between Ukraine and the IAEA for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Additional Protocol thereto.

The impeccable track-record of implementation by Ukraine of its obligations allowed the Agency to explicitly reconfirm the "broad conclusion" for Ukraine in 2014, by establishing the fact that all nuclear material in Ukraine remained in peaceful activities.

We recognize the Secretariat's professional work in preparation of the IAEA Annual Report for 2014, which is based on the norms of international law, the IAEA Statute and respective safeguards agreements.

For our part, Ukraine is determined to continue to fulfill its obligations under the Agreement between Ukraine and the IAEA in accordance with the norms of international law relating to all nuclear facilities and material located on the whole territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Mr. President,

We strongly support the efforts of the Agency focused on improving the nuclear and radiation safety as well as the safety of waste transportation and management.

The accidents occurred at Chornobyl NPP and Fukushima Daichi NPP triggered the revision and enhancement of the international safety standards. Ukraine welcomes and participates proactively in this activity.

The National Regulatory Body initiated a comprehensive program of analysis and revision of the nuclear safety regulations. Relying upon the results of stress-tests conducted at Ukrainian NPPs, the Government of Ukraine revised and approved the Comprehensive Program on Safety Improvement of Ukraine NPPs that includes the measures to be implemented over the period until 2020.

I would like to mention that in May 2015 during the 5th Review Meeting of the Member States - Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, the Delegation of Ukraine presented the National Report demonstrating that our Country has been fulfilling its obligations in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Convention.

Ukraine backs up the Agency's activities on strengthening the cooperation in the field of NPP lifetime extension, maintaining of the knowledge continuity in nuclear power sector, enhancement of the nuclear safety and regulatory capabilities as well as the safety of transportation and radioactive waste management.

Mr. President,

We highly appreciate the Agency's efforts aimed at upgrading the level of physical security of nuclear and radioactive materials, preventing their illicit trafficking, and we stand for the strengthening of physical protection regime applicable to nuclear material.

We recognize the need for more extensive international cooperation under the auspices of the IAEA to reduce the global threat of the nuclear and radioactive materials use for terrorist purposes.

Ukraine stands for strengthening of the international principles and national laws applicable in the area of export control and physical protection of nuclear materials.

Mr. President,

We would like to express satisfaction with the current level of cooperation between Ukraine and the IAEA under the Technical Cooperation Program of the Agency.

National and regional technical cooperation projects of the IAEA have substantially contributed to improving the nuclear safety and the effectiveness of peaceful uses of nuclear power in Ukraine.

We believe that strengthening of the technical cooperation demonstrates the Agency's ability to adequately meet the essential needs of Member States.

National experts participate regularly in workshops, training courses, inspections, working groups' sessions and technical meetings.

I would like to mention about the training on radioactive materials which, despite the complicated situation in Ukraine, was conducted in the city of Chernovtsy.

It is important to Ukraine to take part in this Program because under this Program we have an opportunity to learn the best international practice on the most challenging issues of nuclear power sector development, and, simultaneously, to share with other Member States our experience accumulated in Ukraine.

Mr. President,

Nuclear Power is and further will be an important component of the energy security of Ukraine in the middle and the long run, serving as one of the pillars for sustainable development of the national economy. Its importance was embodied in the respective updated Energy Strategy of Ukraine.

Possessing significant scientific capabilities in the field of nuclear technologies and having the long-term nuclear energy development plans in place, Ukraine supports the Agency's activity in the area of innovative and advanced reactor designs. Our country participates in the International Project on Innovative Reactors and Nuclear Fuel Cycles (INPRO), and since 2008 Ukraine provided the cost-free expert's services to the Agency under the INPRO Project. Also, Ukraine took an active part in the Project on the Global Architectures of Innovative Nuclear Energy Systems with Thermal and Fast Reactors and

Closed Nuclear Fuel Cycle (GAINS). The contribution of Ukraine was highly appreciated by the IAEA experts and was incorporated in the published Final Project Report.

Mr. President,

The issues of mitigation of the Chernobyl accident consequences still remain crucially important to Ukraine

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to convey our gratitude to the countries and international organization that have helped and supported us in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

To enclose the destroyed power unit at Chernobyl NPP, a new safe confinement is currently under construction to be completed by November 2017. In this regard, Ukraine relies on the support of the IAEA and other UN system organizations.

Dear President,

Having survived the Chernobyl accident and supporting Japan in overcoming the consequences of the accident occurred at Fukushima NPP, Ukraine strongly believes that in any area of activities related to the nuclear power utilization, the special focus must be on the safety issues, and, moreover, achieving a high level of the nuclear safety culture must be an integral part of the global strategies of sustainable development of the world's community.

Ukraine welcomes joint efforts of the USA and France aimed at implementing globally the regime of civil liability for nuclear damage, and considers relevant actions at the national level.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to join my voice in support of the Agency's Report for 2014, and express appreciation to the IAEA Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano and the Secretariat of the Agency for their efforts and contribution to the development of nuclear science and technologies, medicine, and promotion of the cooperation between the countries in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear power.

Thank you for your attention,