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Miljö- och energidepartementet Kemikalieenheten

Sveriges anförande till IAEA ministerkonferens om Nuclear Security 5-6/12 2016

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me to express my sincere thanks to the IAEA and its Member States for organizing this Ministerial Conference. This meeting provides an opportunity to deepen our resolve to strengthen nuclear security and provide input and directions for the IAEA's work under the coming Nuclear Security Plan.

I would like to re-affirm Sweden's strong commitment to the work of the Agency and thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their professional work. The IAEA plays a key role in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally.

For many good reasons, nuclear security remains high on the agenda of the international community. As such, we need to maintain a strong focus on current and future challenges. Significant progress has been achieved through the Nuclear Security Summit process that Sweden was an active part of. It is adamant that we retain and develop the spirit and dedication that was a strong bi-product of the NSS process, and that we take heed of the results it produced.

Sweden welcomes the recent entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM (Convention on the Physical Protection on Nuclear Material), and looks forward to its universalization. We urge all states are not parties to the amended Convention to join, ratify and implement the amendment as soon as possible. Its entry into force will create additional momentum for future

IAEA, international, regional and national actions in this area. Combined with the ICSANT (International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism), we see the two conventions as an integrated whole, providing international instruments for all aspects of nuclear security and our struggle against the threat of nuclear terrorism.

Mr. President,

Sweden strongly believes that peer review mechanisms contribute to further strengthening nuclear security as well as building confidence among the adherents to the CPPNM. As the national security systems are measured or tested against the guides and recommendations of the IAEA, IPPAS missions also give depth and relevance to the IAEA Nuclear Security Series. The IAEA carried out an IPPAS mission in Sweden in 2011 and Sweden highly benefited from its advice. Sweden requested a follow-up mission that was carried out earlier this year.

We encourage other Member States to invite IAEA missions on a regular basis, to follow up its findings and to generously share the results, in the area of nuclear security – as well as in other fields – in order to ensure a continuous strengthening of nuclear regulation.

Mr. President,

Sweden has ever since the break-up of the Soviet Union been committed to assisting states in East and Central Europe to upgrade their physical protection systems and routines. The Swedish Government supports a number of projects in the field of nuclear security, as well as in other areas, carried out by the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority in cooperation with counterparts in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. The projects aim at improving nuclear security and nuclear safety and promoting non-proliferation with reference to the objectives of the Global Partnership and the UN Security Council Resolution 1540. Sweden is a dedicated partner country in the Global Partnership as well as in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Sweden has regularly contributed to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. Today, I am pleased to announce an additional Swedish contribution of 50 000 euro.

These are a few examples of what Sweden is doing to contribute to our joint efforts to strengthen nuclear security.

Sweden attaches great importance to gender equality and the involvement by women in nuclear security matters at all national and international levels. We believe that the full and equal participation of men and women, including at the highest levels in the Agency and its Member States, remains essential and that the Agency, as well as the Member States, will benefit from increased gender equality.

I thank you Mr. President.