

GERMANY

Statement

Thorsten Herdan

Director General

*Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie*

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Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. Introduction

On behalf of my government,
I congratulate you on your election as President of the sixty second IAEA General Conference.

I fully endorse the statement made by the European Union.

II. Energy Transition in Germany

Madame Chair,
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 and reliable partner of the Secretariat and all Member States.

Germany will shut down its last nuclear power plant by the end of 2022. Our power production will be largely based on renewables with a share of 65% by 2030 as agreed by our new government.

At the same time, Germany respects the sovereign right of every country to choose its own energy mix and supply.

I can assure you that Germany will continue to strive for a leading position in the use of nuclear technology, security, safety and comprehensive research.

With regard to finance nuclear waste disposal, I would like to emphasise that since its establishment in June 2017 the State-owned Fund for the financing of nuclear waste disposal has commenced investing the funds provided by NPP operators in order to cover the costs of interim and final storage incurred by the State.

III. Budget

Madame Chair,
beyond its share to the regular budget, Germany contributes to specific needs of the Agency:

Germany has supported the modernization of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf in the framework of ECAS, ReNuAL as well as ReNuALplus plus since 2011 with extrabudgetary contributions amounting to 11 million EUR.

In order to enable the Agency to fulfil its central coordinating role in the global nuclear security regime Germany has, since 2011, contributed more than 5 Mio. € to the Nuclear Security Fund and is one of the major donors to that Fund. Germany attaches high importance to nuclear security and calls on others in a position to do so to make substantial contributions to that Fund.

IV. Safeguards

Madame Chair,

I would like to underline the extra-ordinary 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 40th anniversary.

We are looking forward to the IAEA's Safeguards Symposium in November.

Germany highly welcomes the fact that recently three more countries have put Additional Protocols into force and last week's approval of Sri Lanka's AP in the Board of Governors as important steps towards universalisation of the APs.

At the same time, we strongly support the further development of State-level safeguards approaches for all States with safeguards agreements. The recent report of the DG has underlined that State Level Approaches in Safeguards enable the Agency to better focus its verification efforts.

V. Safety

Madame Chair,

Nuclear safety will remain a top priority for us. Germany strongly encourages cooperation between regulators and a worldwide system of mutual controls as these have proven to be an important pillar. Self-assessments and international peer-reviews conducted in cooperation with the IAEA service are of particular importance.

In 2017, numerous European states reported traces of Ru[Ruthenium]-106 in air samples. Different institutions performed backwards calculations and concluded consistently that the elevated activity levels

must have been caused by a major release of Ru-106. Although the detected concentrations of Ru-106 were far from being harmful to European citizens, it is of great concern that still no state has reported any accident. As a consequence, Germany encourages the Member States to work together with the Secretariat to come to an agreement on how possible future situations, in which elevated activity levels are observed but no state is notifying according to the Early Notification Convention, can be handled effectively by the international community.

VI. Security

On nuclear security, Germany welcomes the Agency's efforts to address the growing need for providing support on cyber and computer security issues, which many Member States have stressed. Therefore, we strongly support the efforts of the IAEA to embed computer security provisions into the recommendations level documents and to step up capacity building in this regard. We also commend the Agency for its continued work on the Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB), which we consider to be an important source of information and encourage Member States to actively participate in the data base. Germany attaches great importance also to the security of radioactive sources and will remain active in this regard.

VII. LEU-Bank Kazakhstan

Germany strongly believes in the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle in order to protect our non-proliferation interests. The establishment of the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Kazakhstan is an important step. At the same time, the Bank is a major incentive to secure worldwide LEU supply. Germany trusts that the supply of LEU to the bank will be provided on the basis of solid, transparent and non-discriminatory tender procedures. We note with satisfaction that the Bank will become fully operational in 2019.

VIII. Iran

Germany, together with our EU partners, remains firmly committed to the sustained and full implementation of the JCPOA. The Nuclear Agreement with Iran constitutes an important element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture, based on the NPT, and as such contributes significantly to security in the Middle East and beyond. Therefore, maintaining the JCPOA is a national and shared European security interest. Together with our EU partners, we have made it clear that we will uphold the JCPOA as long as Iran fully complies with its JCPOA commitments.

Through a combination of tight nuclear restrictions and the world's most robust verification regime today, implemented by the IAEA, the JCPOA ensures that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively peaceful.

I would like to commend the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their important work in this regard.

Iran is called upon to extend full cooperation with the IAEA, including by replying in a timely manner to IAEA communications and requests for access.

Up to the present day, we have substantially contributed to the IAEA's activities under the JCPoA and, before, the JPA, with more than 4.48 Mio. Euro of extra-budgetary funding. We encourage all Member States to help ensure that the IAEA is able to conduct its long-term verification and monitoring mission.

IX. North Korea

Madame Chair,

Germany remains firmly attached to the goal of complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The international community's unity and resolve in achieving that objective is crucial and must be upheld.

We welcome the recent inter-Korean summits, the Panmunjom Declaration and Joint Statement after the Summit in Singapore between the US and the DPRK. These are encouraging steps which might open new opportunities for diplomacy.

We expect DPRK to underpin its commitment to denuclearization with concrete and sustainable steps. So far we have only noted the declared suspension of testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Until the DPRK does take credible action, we will continue to strictly enforce existing sanctions. The DPRK must comply, in full, with all relevant UNSC resolutions and return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards. In this context, I would like to thank the Director General for his latest report on the application of Safeguards in the DPRK.

We commend the Secretariat for its efforts to enhance its readiness to play an essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme.

Germany stands ready to contribute expertise to any process towards that end.

Thank you,

Madame Chair.