

Statement on behalf of
Hungary

delivered by

Ms Andrea Beatrix Kádár
Deputy State Secretary for Energy

at the 62nd General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency

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Vienna, Austria

Mme President,

On behalf of the Hungarian Delegation, I would like to extend our congratulations to you on your election to preside over the IAEA General Conference. You may rest assured of our full co-operation in discharging your responsibilities.

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union.

Mme President, Distinguished Delegates,

In recent years climate change has emerged as an issue of central importance that must be addressed by all nations at a multilateral level. Hungary believes that all low-carbon energy sources, including nuclear energy should be a part of a diverse energy mix in order to meet the growing demand for reliable, affordable and clean electricity.

We appreciate the Agency's efforts in helping countries use nuclear technology to mitigate the effects of climate change and we commend the IAEA for dedicating the 2018 Scientific Forum to this crucial issue.

Mme President,

I would like to take this opportunity to address some relevant issues from our national perspective.

Nuclear energy accounts for 50% of Hungary's electricity production and the Hungarian Government intends to maintain the existing nuclear

capacity in the long run. In that regard, let me highlight that the lifetime extension programme of the Paks NPP that began in 2012 has successfully been completed in 2017, whereby all the currently operating 4 units received a 20-year operating licence extension.

Hungary is moving forward with the Paks 2 project to construct two new units, each with an electrical capacity of 1200 MW. I would like to thank the IAEA for providing Hungary with professional assistance in the implementation phase of the project.

Mme President,

Hungary believes that a high level of safety should be achieved and maintained worldwide in the field of spent fuel and radioactive waste management. This year, my country had the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to meeting international requirements by presenting its National Report at the Sixth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention.

This month, a follow-up IRRS mission will be conducted in Hungary to review the measures taken to address the conclusions presented in the 2015 IRRS Mission Report. The IAEA's recommendations and suggestions have been included in our Action Plan and significant efforts have been made to incorporate them into our national legislation.

Mme President,

I turn now to the issue of nuclear security. Hungary believes that it is essential to maintain the central role of the Agency in this field and provide it with the required resources.

During this year's General Conference, Hungary will take over the convenorship of the Nuclear Security Contact Group from Jordan for a one-year period. A centrepiece of our programme is to support the Agency's activities aimed at strengthening nuclear security, and underpin its central coordinating role in this field.

As yet another contribution to enhancing nuclear security, in April 2018, Hungary hosted a workshop in Budapest under the auspices of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism on the security of radioactive sources, their unlawful theft and the immediate response actions.

Mme President,

Hungary welcomes the promising developments on the Korean Peninsula, in which the united and resolute international stance has played an essential role. In spite of the positive attitude demonstrated by the DPRK, the nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain a grave concern, therefore, the international community needs to take a careful approach. Hungary insists on the irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and urges the DPRK to return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards.

Nuclear disarmament agreements must be verified effectively and reliably. To that end, an appropriate toolbox has to be worked out and put at the disposal of negotiators. Therefore, Hungary is honoured to be able to contribute to the work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts set up by the General Assembly to examine the

role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament. Hungary has also been invited to participate in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification focusing on the technical aspects of and capacity building for verification.

Mme President,

Hungary fully supports the aim of the international community and the Agency to ensure that Iran's nuclear programme remains on a peaceful path, while also lives up to the highest standards of nuclear safety. We believe that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is an essential part of the international non-proliferation efforts. While the JCPOA might not be perfect, it is in the interest of all Parties and the international community that its provisions are fully implemented. Hungary welcomes the report of the DG on the status of Iran's nuclear programme underlining that the obligations are fulfilled so far, and considers the verification activities of the IAEA crucial throughout the implementation of the JCPOA.

Mme President,

The Hungarian Government places a great emphasis on research, development and innovation which are essential for future prosperity, growth, employment and investments. As a result of the development of new, improved fuel assemblies, Paks NPP has been able to extend its operating cycle from 12 to 15 months.

Paks NPP is currently the only nuclear power plant with VVER-440 type reactors in the world operating in a 15-month fuel cycle. In recognition of this engineering feat, the MVM Paks NPP Ltd. received the “International Quality Innovation” award.

Mme President, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me conclude by expressing Hungary’s appreciation for the outstanding work that the IAEA is doing in promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of the people all around the world.

Thank you, Mme President.