

Madam President,

I congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference and echo the wishes for DG Amano's prompt recovery and return. I commend him and his staff for their dedication and excellent work.

Norway remains a staunch supporter of the way the Agency is carrying out its statutory functions. The IAEA plays a key role in the implementation of the NPT.

Madam President,

Norway bases its active approach to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on the balanced, mutual, irreversible and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons. We currently chair the UN Group of Governmental Experts that considers the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament. A verification regime trusted by nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon states alike is crucial for building confidence and achieving future reductions in nuclear arsenals.

Norway contributed substantively to the timely implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and remains deeply committed to Security Council Resolution 2231. The US decision to withdraw has made the agreement vulnerable. We call on Iran to continue its ongoing, full cooperation with the IAEA.

The DPRK's nuclear weapons program remain an unacceptable violation of international law and NPT-obligations. Norway stands firmly behind relevant UN Security Council resolutions and also implements further restrictive measures in line with the EU. We welcome the IAEA's continued readiness to play a role in nuclear verification in the DPRK.

The Agency's system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We call for universal accession to the NPT and for all Member States to conclude Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the Agency, and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol.

Norway commends the Agency on the way it is implementing its safeguards mandate. Sufficient resourcing is a continuing challenge. We welcome new instruments allowing the Agency to focus its verification efforts. We particularly welcome the work to develop and implement State Level Safeguards Approaches, which the Director General is fully mandated to do by virtue of the existing safeguards agreements.

Madam President

We recognize the right of all Member States' to peaceful uses of Nuclear Technology, enabled by enforcing the highest standards of safety and security.

Norway is pleased with the pace and direction of the Agency's safety work and shares the principles of the Vienna Declaration. We remain a strong support of the IAEA's Commission on Safety Standards and the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee.

Norway strongly supports the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention. We encourage all member states to address the challenges identified during the Seventh Review Meeting on the CNS.

Norway has for a long time assisted several member states to improve their safety framework and culture. Norway continues to cooperate on nuclear safety issues with its Eastern and High North neighbors.

We value the informal dialogue between coastal and shipping states. We need to further improve emergency preparedness and strengthen adherence to nuclear liability regimes and conventions. Recent cases show the need for improved arrangements for reporting nuclear incidents and accidents, especially for those cases leading to transboundary detection of elevated radiation levels.

Norway encourages all member states to carry out regular self-assessments and host Agency peer review missions. In 2019, Norway will receive an Integrated Regulatory Review Service.

Deployment of floating and transportable nuclear power plants and small, medium and modular reactors demands our attention. The Agency must intensify its considerations of all aspects of the safety and security of such facilities. The scope and applicability of existing requirements and instruments need to be clarified and developed. Norway requests that the Secretariat hold a comprehensive briefing on all their work on TNPPs in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation instruments are often mutually reinforcing. Norway commends the efforts of the IAEA to promote the universalization of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material ahead of the 2021 Review Conference.

Norway encourages work to enhance international cooperation to prevent the smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive materials. We encourage the Agency together with relevant international organizations and initiatives, to assist member states in this regard.

Norway has been engaged in efforts to minimize and eliminate stocks and the use of highly enriched uranium for more than a decade. In June, we hosted the third International Symposium on HEU Minimization in cooperation with the Agency. We are pleased to note the significant progress made in HEU reductions. Further minimization requires sustained technical, financial and political

commitment. We encourage all member states to sign up to the IAEA Information Circular 912 and commit themselves to minimize the use of HEU in civilian applications.

Madam President,

As a member of the Group of Friends of Women in Nuclear, Norway notes with satisfaction the increasing share of women in the professional staff category of the Agency and encourages continued efforts in this regard.

The Agency has an important role in the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Norway is fully committed to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme and a strong supporter of the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

A robust safety, security and safeguards regime enables the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology. It is vital that all core activities of the Agency continue to receive the necessary funding.

Thank you.