

## National Statement by Finland September 15, 2025 at the 69th IAEA General Conference

Minister of Climate and the Environment Sari Multala

Mr. President,

We congratulate you on your election and give you our full support for this General Conference. It is a great pleasure and an honour to be here among you today. Finland aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union, to which I will add some remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to start by underlining **the importance of defending, promoting and further strengthening the rules based international order**, including the global architecture for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. This is even more crucial now when the global security situation keeps deteriorating.

**Nuclear safety and security situation in Ukraine** continues to raise concern amid the Russian aggression and its illegal attempt to take ownership of Ukraine's nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhya. We highly appreciate the Agency's work to maintain nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine which Finland continues to support politically and financially.

Finland demands Russia to immediately withdraw all its military and other unauthorized personnel from the Ukrainian nuclear facilities, cease military action and immediately and unconditionally withdraw all of its troops from internationally recognized territory of Ukraine. Finland remains steadfast in supporting a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, based on the UN Charter and international law.

We thank Canada for introducing a draft resolution on Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards in Ukraine. We ask the IAEA member states to support this resolution.

Finland continues to be **very concerned on Iran's nuclear program** which the IAEA has not been able to declare exclusively peaceful. Finland regrets Iran's lack of cooperation with the Agency.

The reliability of the world-wide NPT safeguards system is as strong as its weakest link. The non-compliance of one country undermines the credibility of the entire system.

Finland calls upon Iran to fulfill its legal obligations under its Safeguards Agreement, and allow the Agency inspectors to enter the country and provide them with the required information. Finland welcomes the announcement by the DG that an agreement has been reached between the Agency and Iran on practical modalities and look forward to its implementation.

The only sustainable outcome is a negotiated nuclear deal. We encourage Iran to engage fully in finding a diplomatic solution. Any further military escalation is in no one's interest and must be avoided.

Another concerning non-proliferation **issue is the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea** which remains a threat to regional and international peace and security. The DPRK must return to compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The DPRK can never have the status of a nuclear weapon State in accordance with the NPT.

Mr. President,

**The Non-Proliferation Treaty** has been the cornerstone of the global arms control architecture for more than 50 years. The upcoming NPT Review Conference will serve as an important opportunity to strengthen the Treaty. Finland remains a steadfast supporter of the Treaty and wants to contribute in safeguarding it. We all need to ensure the relevance and importance of the NPT. I would like to highlight the crucial role of the IAEA in implementing the NPT and nuclear safeguards. We urge the full, complete, and effective implementation of the NPT across its three pillars. We also call for its universalisation.

Mr. President,

**Climate change** is a global challenge and nuclear energy is one of the solutions in combatting it. Finland is committed to meeting emission reduction targets and reaching carbon neutrality followed by carbon negativity. Nuclear energy is one of the key solutions for Finland to reach the climate objectives.

Our government is also **promoting nuclear power including SMRs** (Small Modular Reactors) as part of the energy mix. We are renewing the Nuclear Energy Act and other relevant regulations to take into account SMRs and other new developments like heat production.

**Addressing the challenge of spent nuclear fuel** is crucial to maintaining public acceptance for nuclear power. Finland will be the world's first country to start its deep geological disposal. The test run of the encapsulation plant, without the actual fuel, has been successfully concluded.

**Nuclear safety** must remain the overriding priority, both in the development of new nuclear power plants and in ensuring the continued safe operation of aging facilities. Sustained attention to safety at all stages is essential for maintaining public trust and global confidence in nuclear energy, and this requires strong international cooperation with the IAEA playing a central role.

As regards **nuclear applications**, Finland and Ghana co-chaired the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Co-operation Programme last November in Vienna. The unanimous adoption of a ministerial declaration underscored a collective commitment among member states to support the IAEA's objectives and its Technical Cooperation Programme.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the **importance of promoting gender equality** also in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We commend the Agency's strong commitment to gender equality and mainstreaming efforts.

Mr. President,

I would like to conclude by saying that Finland sees **the IAEA's independent expert role** in safeguards verification and the promotion of nuclear safety and security worldwide indispensable. The IAEA's work is needed more than ever as we face global challenges. We continue to fully support the Agency's work towards its important mission: Atoms for Peace and Development.

I thank you, Mr. President