

Mr/Madam President, Excellencies,

Director- General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my government, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of this year's General Conference.

Germany would like to express its gratitude to the Director-General and the IAEA staff for their valuable efforts and steadfast commitment to nuclear and radiation safety, security and safeguards.

Iran's continued escalation of proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities over recent years and its failure to comply with its nuclear safeguard obligations present a huge challenge to international peace and security.

Much of Iran's nuclear programme and in particular its production of highly enriched uranium is unprecedented for a country without a nuclear weapons programme – it lacks any plausible civilian purpose.

Against this backdrop, and given the approaching expiry of UNSC Resolution 2231, the E3 notified the UN Security Council of Iran's significant non-performance under the JCPoA and initiated the snapback mechanism two weeks ago. We had to take this step given Iran's year-long non-compliance with key JCPoA commitments, while the E3 had always honoured their own commitments and made every effort to revive the deal. The E3 have always remained clear that the door to diplomacy remains open provided that Iran takes concrete, and verifiable steps to address the international community's huge concerns.

This also applies to Iran's legal obligations: We are very worried that Iran so far has not resumed full co-operation with the IAEA and that no clear pathway to resume full co-operation between Iran and the IAEA has been established. We call on Iran to fully abide with its legal obligations under its Safeguards Agreement and to resume full cooperation with the IAEA.

Russia's war against Ukraine is now in its 4th year.

Germany urges Russia, once again, to immediately end this unprovoked and illegal war. We strongly condemn any act compromising the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear facilities. We are extremely concerned about the severe damage caused to the New Safe Confinement at Chernobyl.

The seizure of the Zaporizhzhya NPP remains a serious and unprecedented threat. We urge Russia to restore full control of the ZNPP to its rightful and sovereign owner, Ukraine.

Germany supports the IAEA's presence in Ukraine. We commend DG Grossi and his team for their tireless engagement in supporting the nuclear safety and security of Ukraine's Nuclear Power Plants including ZNPPt.

Germany is ready to maintain its support for Ukraine, both bilaterally and through the Agency. We encourage all other Member States to support the IAEA's efforts in this regard.

Germany commends the Agency's efforts to monitor and re-establish regular inspections based on IAEA Safeguards.

We once again call on the DPRK to comply with its obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions, to abandon all existing nuclear programmes and to return to full compliance with the NPT.

We strongly encourage diplomatic efforts to achieve sustainable peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

Germany is extremely grateful for the IAEA's dedicated and successful work and stands ready to provide continued support.

Germany has been a reliable and determined party within the IAEA Board of Governors since 1973. I can assure you that we will continue our **strong expert involvement** in the work of the IAEA.

Germany has considerable expertise in the field of nuclear technology and radiation protection, particularly in safety, security, safeguards and emergency preparedness and response. We continuously contribute this expertise to the IAEA's excellent work on international regulations and the further development of nuclear safety standards and security guidelines.

With the aim of implementing the Non-Proliferation Treaty worldwide, we support the Agency's activities in the field of verification in a variety of ways, too. The IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) is a central pillar of international cooperation in emergency preparedness and response.

Germany also continues to play an active role in a wide range of nuclear non-power technologies. Whereas nuclear power plants are operated in fewer than 20 percent of member states, non-power applications have an

impact to much more countries worldwide. Some of these technologies can save lives. The use of radioactive substances and ionising radiation in medical applications are a case in point. Across the globe, safe use of such technologies plays a vital role in both preventive healthcare and the treatment of serious diseases. This is why the German government is so committed to promoting cancer screening. Tomorrow, there will be a side event on this topic.

With extrabudgetary voluntary contributions of more than two million euros, we also support the valuable work of the IAEA in the areas of safety, security and safeguards, as well as in the areas of marine protection, nuclear medicine and the advancement of women at the IAEA.

Germany is a leader in nuclear fusion research and development. The German government aims for the world's first fusion power plant to be built in Germany.

A strong, reliable legal and technical framework must also be in place that ensures the safety of installations and protects people and the environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation. This framework must also address disposal issues.

This is why we believe it is necessary to gradually develop the regulatory framework in line with current technological developments. We would like to offer our support to the IAEA to achieve this.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, allow me to draw your attention to our exhibition booth “Fusion Power Plant Made in Germany – Pioneering Technology and Regulatory Frameworks” – you are warmly invited to stop by.

Thank you.