

## **IAEA 69<sup>th</sup> GC - National Statement by Ireland**

### **2025**

President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of 26 EU Member States, as delivered by Denmark, and makes the following statement in a national capacity.

Ireland congratulates the Republic of Slovakia's Resident Representative Peter Burian for his appointment as President of this 69<sup>th</sup> GC and assures him of our delegation's full support. Ireland welcomes the Republic of Maldives as the newest Member of the IAEA.

President,

This Conference meets against the backdrop serious risks to nuclear safety and security, profound and urgent non-proliferation threat, and challenges to international law and the multilateral institutions. We rely on the expertise and independence of the IAEA, and note with appreciation the vital work done since the last Conference by the Director General and the Agency's staff.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Progress across all three of its interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars is essential for its success. Central to that historical success has been limiting proliferation, and enabling the peaceful use of the atom, which has been a central pillar of international security. We must do all in our power to uphold that architecture – and to support the invaluable role of the IAEA in its implementation.

President,

Nuclear safety and security is essential in all circumstances, including in armed conflict.

The Director General at the UN Security Council noted his concern about attacks on nuclear facilities, including the potential risks for nuclear safety and security and regional and international peace.

The Russian Federation's ongoing illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, in clear breach of international law and the UN Charter, continues to pose serious risks to Ukrainian nuclear facilities. Russia continues to show no sign of complying with the numerous resolutions adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors or by the General Conference.

The situation at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) continues to be precarious, with six of the Director General's seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security either fully or partially compromised. We strongly support the reinforced IAEA presence at the ZNPP, and call for the IAEA to be granted full access. All ZNPP reactors must remain in cold shut down.

We remain gravely concerned by reports from the Agency that there continues to be military activity in the vicinity of the plant, as well as the presence of Russian armed troops and military equipment. Ireland urges Russia to withdraw from ZNPP, as well as the entire territory of Ukraine, and return it to the rightful control of Ukraine's authorities.

President,

Ireland remains concerned by Iran's nuclear activities. Iran must never be allowed to possess a nuclear weapon.

Ireland thanks the Director General for the efforts last week, and is encouraged by his statement that the agreement reached in Cairo is a step in the right direction. That must now lead to the full resumption of inspections and cooperation with the Agency.

This is a requirement under the legally-binding Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, and necessary so that the Agency can provide assurances on Iran's nuclear programme.

We are now at a critical juncture on this issue. The recent progress is encouraging, necessary, but not sufficient. Urgently resolving the outstanding issues to provide a lasting solution can only be achieved through diplomacy and dialogue.

President,

Ireland condemns the DPRK's unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile activities, which are in flagrant violation of UN Security Council resolutions and threaten peace and stability. We call on DPRK to immediately end its destabilising actions, and undertake steps to abandon its missile, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. DPRK must return to compliance with the NPT, fully cooperate with the IAEA, and urgently sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Ireland takes note of Syria's renewed engagement with the Agency and welcomes the launch of a process of clarification of outstanding safeguards issues. Ireland calls on Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA and to sign, bring into force and implement in full an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as a matter of urgency.

President,

We urge states developing their civilian nuclear programmes to amend or rescind their Small Quantities Protocol and sign & ratify the Additional Protocol as a matter of priority, and to recall the importance of universal adherence to IAEA safeguards.

President,

All States possess the sovereign right to develop nuclear technologies for energy and other peaceful uses. Ireland recognises that nuclear and radiological technologies can contribute to a wide variety of socioeconomic and environmental benefits.

Wherever nuclear power is used, it must be done in line with the highest international standards and with respect to safety and environmental protection. Ireland underscores the essential role of the IAEA in this regard.

President,

Ireland is horrified with the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and calls for an urgently needed, immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages and unimpeded humanitarian access at scale into and throughout Gaza.

At the June Board of Governors, Ireland supported a Joint Statement on IAEA Technical Assistance to Palestine, and we stand ready to continue our support to the Agency's efforts to provide assistance to the State of Palestine, to alleviate human suffering in the Gaza strip.

President,

Ireland remains committed to ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of the IAEA. We commend Director General Grossi and the Agency for continued work to advance gender parity. Ireland strongly supports the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the integration of a gender perspective across all three pillars of the NPT.

An inclusive workforce and inclusive discussions directly contribute to technological and diplomatic innovation.

President,

We call on all States to engage in a collaborative and good faith manner with the work of this Conference to address the challenges we see before us and achieve real and lasting progress and to support the Agency – for the benefit of all.

Thank you.