

SWEDEN

Statement

by

Dag Hartelius

State Secretary, Ministry for foreign affairs

International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

69th session

2025

Vienna

Thank you, Mr President,

Let me congratulate you, Ambassador Peter Burian, on your appointment as President. You can count on my delegation's support.

Sweden is aligned with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union. The following remarks are in my national capacity.

Mr President,

Sweden remains firmly committed to supporting the IAEA's work across all its core programmes. We commend its impartial, technical, and evidence-based approach in fulfilling its mandate.

The importance of nuclear power for reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions is recognized globally. At COP28, more than 20 countries launched the Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy.

We need to continue strengthening international collaboration to harness the potential of civil nuclear energy – while ensuring the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. The IAEA plays a vital role in all these aspects.

To enable a rapid expansion of nuclear power, standardisation is necessary and Sweden welcomes the Director General's Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative.

The Swedish Government's objective is to expand new nuclear power by at least 2 500 megawatt installed capacity

by 2035. Latest by 2045 Sweden is committed to have net zero emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

To meet an increased demand for fossil free electricity, the Swedish Government has launched several initiatives to enable the rapid expansion of nuclear power in Sweden, whilst maintaining a high level of nuclear safety and security.

A system for the final disposal of spent fuel from nuclear reactors is now underway in Sweden. The Swedish Government has granted licensing decisions for a deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel, for a fuel encapsulation plant, as well as for an extension of the repository for low- and intermediate level waste.

On Wednesday Sweden, together with Canada, Finland France, Switzerland and the USA, are organizing a side event on deep geological repository projects and the role of regulatory bodies in ensuring the safe disposal of radioactive waste. We hope to see many of you there!

Mr. President,

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a blatant violation of international law including the UN Charter and IAEA Statute. It continues to pose a direct threat to nuclear safety and security, with potentially severe consequences for Ukraine and its neighbouring countries.

These violations are further aggravated by the fact that Russia is a nuclear-weapon state, a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a designated member of the IAEA Board.

The only sustainable way to end this perilous situation is for Russia to implement the resolutions of the General Conference and the Board and end its brutal war of aggression by withdrawing immediately and unconditionally from Ukraine's internationally recognised borders.

Safety and security at Ukrainian nuclear power plants is vital to maintaining Ukraine's resilience. This is why the Swedish Government decided to make considerable extrabudgetary contributions of 1.8 million Euros 2024 and 1.8 million Euros 2025, to support the IAEA's safety and security assistance missions in Ukraine.

Funds allocated annually for nuclear safety and security cooperation with Ukraine have more than doubled since February 2022. Sweden also contributes 47 million Euros to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund.

Sweden reiterates its steadfast commitment to support Ukraine for as long as it takes.

Mr President,

The IAEA's role in verifying and monitoring Iran's nuclear programme, and transparently reporting its findings, remains essential. Sweden will continue to provide extrabudgetary contributions to support that work.

Iran has limited the Agency's verification authority since 2021 to the bare minimum under its NPT safeguards agreement. Sweden reiterates its call on Iran to resume its provisional application of the Additional Protocol, proceed with its ratification, and fully implement its legally binding Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

The only way to put us on a path towards the restoration of confidence in the nuclear programme is for Iran to engage in in a meaningful way and to address international concerns regarding its nuclear activities.

Mr President,

Sweden renews its call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its international commitments and undertake the complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programme in accordance with United Nations Security Council and IAEA General Conference resolutions.

We support the IAEA's work on nuclear non-proliferation in this regard.

Sweden remains committed to supporting a peaceful dialogue on the Korean Peninsula.

Mr President,

Let me conclude by welcoming the IAEA's continued efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the nuclear sector and to mainstream gender considerations into all its policies and organizational practices.

Thank you Mr President!