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Statement by

Mr Benoît Revaz

State Secretary and Director of Swiss Federal Office of Energy

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Mr President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Switzerland. Liechtenstein associates itself with this statement. We extend our sincere congratulations on your election as President of the General Conference. We also express our deep appreciation to Director General Grossi for his continued leadership, and we commend the Secretariat and the entire Agency for their dedication, professionalism, and exemplary work. Switzerland has full confidence in the Agency's ability to carry out its mandate in an independent, impartial, and professional manner.

Mr President,

The International Atomic Energy Agency plays a pivotal role in facilitating the peaceful use of nuclear energy while contributing to global efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. In the current geopolitical context, the Agency's role is more vital than ever. Switzerland is deeply concerned by the mounting pressure on the global non-proliferation regime and the broader nuclear safety, security, and safeguards architecture. We underscore the importance of preserving and strengthening multilateral institutions and frameworks. The IAEA's independent and professional work remains essential to fostering international trust, transparency, and stability in the nuclear domain.

In this regard, Switzerland wishes to highlight three areas of concern related to safeguards compliance.

First, Switzerland remains deeply concerned about the status of Iran's nuclear program. The loss of continuity of knowledge by the Agency, particularly regarding the stockpile of 60% highly enriched uranium is of utmost concern. We call on Iran to fully implement its legally binding CSA and cooperate with the IAEA. Switzerland reiterates that nuclear facilities must not be attacked and that any doubts about the peaceful nature of particular nuclear facilities must be resolved through diplomatic agreements, verification measures and cooperation with the IAEA. We call on all actors to double their efforts in finding a diplomatic path towards a negotiated solution.

Second, Switzerland remains deeply concerned about the continued advancement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes,

which are in violation of several United Nations Security Council resolutions and pose a serious threat to regional and global security. Switzerland calls on the DPRK re-implement IAEA safeguards and ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We strongly support renewed diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring dialogue, reducing tensions, and achieving the complete and verifiable ~~denuclearization~~ denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Third, Switzerland welcomes Syria's renewed cooperation with the IAEA and supports the Director General's efforts to clarify unresolved safeguards issues.

With regard to safeguards in general, Switzerland supports efforts to further optimize the safeguards system in order to make the most of efficient use of the limited resources available to the Agency. Through its Member State Support Programme (MSSP), Switzerland actively contributes to various safeguards development projects.

Mr President,

Switzerland commends the IAEA and its Director General for their unwavering commitment to nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in Ukraine. We fully support the Seven Pillars and Five Principles and welcome the Agency's continued presence at all five Ukrainian nuclear sites.

The safety and security of IAEA personnel must remain a top priority. Switzerland is alarmed by repeated disruptions to off-site power and the deteriorating condition of cooling infrastructure. These developments highlight the fragility of nuclear operations and the need for strengthened contingency measures. Switzerland reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We strongly support renewed diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the conflict and safeguard nuclear safety in Ukraine.

Mr President,

Switzerland welcomes the adoption of the strategy to develop a comprehensive long-term plan for safety standards within the Commission on Safety Standards. We commend the Commission and the Secretariat for their dedicated work. The long-term plan is essential to ensure that IAEA safety standards remain effective and responsive to evolving technologies and challenges, as outlined in the Director General's report.

We also welcome the successful outcome of the Eighth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention, which demonstrated progress in the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Furthermore, we commend the Agency's development of a focused IRRS mission concept for countries that have completed two full-scope cycles. This tailored approach enhances regulatory effectiveness while optimizing resources. In this context, Switzerland is pleased to announce its invitation for a follow-up IRRS mission in autumn 2027, with preparations already underway.

Mr President,

Switzerland reaffirms its strong commitment to strengthening the global nuclear security architecture. We remain a steadfast supporter of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment and continue to contribute reliably to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund. We recognize the Agency as an indispensable platform for international coordination and a key partner in assisting States to establish effective and sustainable nuclear security regimes.

Mr President,

Spiez Laboratory, one of two IAEA Collaborating Centre in Switzerland, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. We are honoured to welcome Director General Grossi to Switzerland next month on this occasion. Also, this year, the Laboratory will be redesignated as a collaborating centre for the period 2026-2029. Labor Spiez is internationally recognized as a reference centre for Atomic, Biological, and Chemical threats.-It continues to support the Agency's work, for example through its contribution to the environmental radioactivity monitoring in Fukushima, including the ALPS discharge and additional measures.

Finally, we wish also to highlight the contributions of EAWAG, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, to groundwater research and isotopic hydrology, with its expertise to be showcased at the Scientific Forum which starts tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr President