

## **STATEMENT BY ESTONIA**

### **59th General Conference of the IAEA**

**H.E. Ambassador Rein Oidekivi**  
**Resident Representative of Estonia to the IAEA**

**Vienna, September 2015**

**Mr President,**

On behalf of the Estonian delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the 59th General Conference. I would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Fully aligning with the European Union statement delivered by Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, I would like to point out some issues of particular interest to Estonia.

**Mr President,**

We fully recognize the leading role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework, non-proliferation regime and in ensuring the safe and secure development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The IAEA's system of safeguards is essential for the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The IAEA's safeguards benefit all NPT parties and create confidence that facilitates the **fullest possible international cooperation** in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Estonia welcomes the **historical agreement** reached as a result of negotiations between the EU3+3 and Iran on a **comprehensive settlement regarding the Iranian nuclear**

**program.** This agreement proves that even in the case of extremely complicated international issues, diplomatic efforts can help to provide a peaceful and constructive solution. We call on Iran to fully implement the action plan that was agreed. Hopefully, it will help to contribute to the gradual alleviation of tensions in the region. We strongly support the IAEA's long term mission in verifying and monitoring Iran's nuclear related commitments and we would like to announce our second voluntary contribution in support of IAEA's verification and monitoring activities in Iran.

**Mr President,**

The IAEA is and remains the key institution to promote and supervise **nuclear safety** worldwide. We attach great importance to the **Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety**, which was adopted at the Diplomatic Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety in February 2015. We are convinced that the Declaration plays an important role in ongoing international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety.

We welcome the Director General's **Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident**, which was recently released. We fully agree with the Director General, that although nuclear safety remains the responsibility of each individual country, nuclear accidents can transcend national borders. The Fukushima report underlines the vital importance of effective international cooperation.

For the first time, cooperation to find an effective international solution to the **long-term management and disposal of different types of radioactive waste and spent fuel** was debated at the 5th Review Meeting of Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in May 2015. For Estonia, this topic is important due to the fact that we are a country without nuclear installations and the quantity of radioactive waste emerging annually is minor. Currently, the founding of a final disposal facility in Estonia is under consideration.

The **Action Plan on Nuclear Safety**, endorsed at the 55th IAEA General Conference, is also an important tool, which has already showed concrete results. For example, the role of regulatory bodies has been elaborated and strengthened, the quantity and quality of peer review missions has increased and many international safety standards have been reviewed.

**Mr President,**

We recognise the IAEA's important role in strengthening the international **nuclear security** framework through promoting the implementation of relevant legal instruments, enhancing international cooperation and assisting states in nuclear security capacity building. Estonia welcomes the agency's **Nuclear Security Plan for 2014-2017** and is happy to continue with its annual contributions to the **Nuclear Security Fund**.

Estonia supports all measures that lead to **higher nuclear safety and security standards**, both nationally and internationally. We call on IAEA Member States to ensure the highest levels of safety and security of nuclear installations directly affecting their own, as well as neighbouring countries. Transparency is needed before construction, and also during the operation of nuclear facilities.

**Mr President,**

Estonia highly values the **Technical Cooperation Programme** of the IAEA and its role in contributing to sustainable development and building competences in the safe use of nuclear technology among Member States. The programme has a central part in advancing Estonian national nuclear infrastructure through carefully selected priorities. At the request of Estonian authorities, the IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission is going to be carried out in 2016. We look forward to the outcomes of the review mission, which are significant for strengthening our regulatory infrastructure, radiation and nuclear safety. Estonia is determined to continue its good cooperation with the IAEA, to achieve the highest level of nuclear safety and to be a solid partner to the IAEA and its Member States.

**Mr President,**

**Finally**, I would like to express our appreciation of the work done by the IAEA to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and we call upon all countries to support the Agency in these efforts.

Thank you, Mr President.