



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
VIENNA

Statement by
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Head of Delegation of Portugal to the
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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr President,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Fifty-ninth General Conference of the IAEA and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Portugal fully endorses the views expressed in the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union.

Mr President,

Portugal welcomes the applications by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Turkmenistan, and is glad that each year more and more States join the IAEA family. Portugal has been promoting the IAEA amongst States that are not yet part of the Agency. The fact that an increasing number of States joined the IAEA reflects its unquestionable role regarding Peace and stability in the World today. We should also not forget one of the basic ideas of the creation of IAEA, Atoms for Peace, and its full spectrum of activities.

We take this opportunity to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to join the Agency, the Non Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States, and to conclude and bring into force Safeguard Agreements with Additional Protocols, which represent the current IAEA verification standards.

Mr President,

Since the last General Conference, we have gathered once again for a NPT Review Conference. It is with dismay that I have to admit that we have not been able to approve a consensual final document. However, discussions have shown that we need to be persistent about nuclear disarmament and non proliferation and we should all work in order to achieve common ground, the only chance we have to live in Peace.

2015 has seen a remarkable breakthrough in the case of Iran. By signing the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* on 14 July and on the same day the *Roadmap for the clarification of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme* Iran and the Parties involved assume a serious commitment, which we hope shall be kept through the full implementation of both agreements.

Portugal regrets that the Syrian and North Korean files still remain open after so long and renews its appeals to those States to fully comply with their obligations regarding the IAEA and the NPT.

Mr President,

IAEA approach to the health sector is very commendable and we are glad to see that PACT is continuing its work in full. Undoubtedly, the support provided by the IAEA to national laboratories and institutions, in particular in cancer treatment and diagnosis, is of major importance and must be sustained.

Regarding safety issues, we consider that the Vienna Declaration concerning article 18 of the Convention of Nuclear Safety is a step forward, although we would have preferred that a stronger decision had been taken. Furthermore, we need to be practical and set as our priority the implementation of the commitments already set out in the Convention.

Portugal has actively participated in the CNS and Joint Convention meetings, presenting national reports and making presentations at the meetings. We have asked IAEA for an Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors (INSARR), which should be concluded by March 2016 and we shall require an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) until the end of 2016, according to EU Directives.

Portugal and Spain signed a Protocol on 30th July regarding nuclear and radiological emergencies. This Protocol is intended to strengthen the collaboration between the two countries to establish response mechanisms and promote the development of human and material resources in order to respond to potential nuclear or radiological emergencies with cross-border or transnational impacts. This cooperation applies to either routine or emergency nuclear or radiological events.

It is also intended that this cooperation systematizes and promotes the exchange of information, knowledge and experience of the parties regarding planning and environmental radiological monitoring and results.

Still regarding safety issues, Portugal would like to highlight the very positive developments made by the Group of Coastal and Shipping States regarding the notification of transports and has participated in the table top exercise that took place in June.

Safety of nuclear power plants must be carefully taken into account and we must make sure that lessons learned from past events are not forgotten, but are instead used to help improve current safety methods and technologies. This approach to safety should apply to the new generation of nuclear fission power plants, as well as the prototype of the first fusion nuclear power plant.

In an unstable world, nuclear security assumes an amplified relevance which must be tackled fully and with concern. We would like to highlight the case of cyber security, which is no longer the past new frontier, but it is at our doorsteps.

Mr. President,

We consider Technical Cooperation as a major component of IAEA activities. Allow me to recall that, in line with article 2 of the Statute of AIEA and in particular with the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance, “each Member State of the Agency or group of Member States shall be eligible for technical assistance”.

Since we have signed a new CPF in 2013, we have been working with African partners in order to boost our scientific and technology relations.

Finally, Mr President,

Portugal takes this opportunity to reiterate its confidence on the discussions of this General Conference and to ensure its commitment to the Atoms for Peace agenda.

I thank you, Mr President.