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SWEDEN

Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Helen Eduards

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Thank you Mr President,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election as President of the 59th General Conference of the IAEA and to offer you the full support of my delegation. My delegation welcomes the Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan as new members of the Agency.

I would like to affirm Sweden's strong commitment to the work of the IAEA and thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial work.

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to make the following remarks from a national perspective.

Mr President,

Sweden warmly welcomes the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with regard to Iran's nuclear programme. The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström, has referred to the agreement as "a victory for diplomacy". The IAEA will take on a key role in verifying compliance in accordance with the agreement, pursuant to the Board's decisions last month and with the framework and roadmap agreed with Iran. Sweden fully supports the Agency in its important work and has decided to contribute 1 million SEK in 2015 towards the IAEA's additional verification costs related to the JCPOA.

Mr. President,

Sweden attaches great importance to gender equality at the IAEA secretariat. We believe that the full and equal participation of men and women, including at the highest levels, remains essential and will benefit the Agency and its Member States. We commend the Director General's efforts to encourage women to apply for senior positions in the secretariat. We welcome the implementation of the gender policy applied in preparation for the Agency's 2016-2017 programs and budget but note that with the current pace the IAEA will be a gender equal organization somewhere around the year 2040. Sweden encourages the secretariat to strengthen its effort to reach gender equality much earlier. We take note of the report submitted to the General Conference. We look forward to further achievements and reiterate our strong support for gender equality at the IAEA secretariat.

Mr President,

The strengthened IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Together, Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols are the basis of a robust, effective and efficient safeguards system, and this should be considered the current verification standard pursuant to Article III of the NPT.

Sweden welcomes the entry into force of an NPT safeguards agreement and additional protocol by Djibouti and of an additional protocol with Cambodia. We encourage those states that have not yet done so to bring into force their NPT safeguards agreements and additional protocols without delay and to ensure that their Small Quantities Protocols are in accordance with the current standard. Member States must provide the necessary support so that the Agency can carry out its task of verifying the correctness and completeness of state declarations.

We also welcome the IAEA's efforts to apply the State-level Concept to all states with a safeguards agreement in force, as part of the continuing evolution of safeguards implementation.

Mr President,

Sweden emphasises the importance of international cooperation and the development of common approaches for nuclear safety. We reaffirm our commitment to implementing the principles and objectives emphasised in the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety and we look forward to further discussions in this respect at future Review Meetings of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

In the end of 2014 the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority decided that by 2020 all operating nuclear power reactors should have installed robust and permanent stationary means for emergency core cooling, independent from the existing emergency core cooling functions. The aim is to increase the robustness of the plants against extreme situations.

Sweden welcomes and supports the efforts of the Agency to improve radiation protection globally and commends the IAEA and ILO for arranging the International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection in Vienna, in December 2014. Sweden welcomes the on-going work on safety guides that will support the implementation of the new International Basic Safety Standards.

Mr President,

Sweden continues to give full support to the IAEA activities regarding emergency preparedness and response. The Fukushima accident pointed to the need for close international collaboration in an emergency situation. Sweden welcomes the IAEA Board decision in March 2015 to establish new IAEA Safety Requirements on Emergency Preparedness and Response, we will actively take part in the newly established Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee (EPRaSC).

Sweden continues to be actively engaged in international co-operation on radioactive waste management, including the work within several IAEA activities and within the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. An application from the Swedish nuclear power industry for permission to construct a deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel repository is undergoing review. Preliminary findings from the review are being published by the Radiation Safety Authority in 2015. In spring 2016 the authority is expected to present a statement to the Land and Environment Courts for the environmental impact assessment.

Mr President, Sweden remains committed to continue its co-operation with the Agency and its Member States on existing and emerging security matters. The pilot security exercise, part of the joint project with the IAEA, held off the coast in Sweden early May 2014 provided a good opportunity to test and evaluate the new IAEA guide on planning, conducting and evaluating transport security exercises. We would like to convey our appreciation to IAEA and the 15 countries that observed the exercise.

Mr President,

Nuclear Security remains high on the agenda of the international community. We are now preparing for a last summit within the Nuclear Security Summit process.. The IAEA plays a central role in the common priority to continuously strengthening the nuclear security framework globally as well as in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear energy.

Peer review mechanisms such as the IAEA IPPAS missions can contribute to further strengthening nuclear security as well as building confidence. We believe there is scope to make further use of this tool. The IAEA carried out an IPPAS mission in Sweden in 2011 and we will request a follow-up mission in 2016. We encourage others to invite missions on regular basis; to follow up the findings and share the results more generously.

Mr. President,

Sweden has together with other Member States of the IAEA been engaged in cooperation with states in Central and Eastern Europe in order to assist in addressing Nuclear legacy issues. Sweden currently cooperates with Ukraine, Georgia, the Russian Federation, Moldova and Belarus in the areas of safeguards implementation, management of radioactive waste, seizure of orphan sources, combating illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials, as well as nuclear safety at nuclear power plants. It is our clear impression that these efforts together with the efforts by other states and the IAEA, provide a net contribution to the nuclear safety, non-proliferation and security in the states we cooperate with.

Mr President,

Sweden participated actively in the negotiations at this year's NPT Review Conference, and not least in the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. While we regret that consensus could not be reached on a final document, we note with satisfaction the strong support that was expressed for the Agency's mandated work in relation to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and IAEA safeguards.

I thank you Mr Chairman.