

**STATEMENT TO  
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020  
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION  
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

**Geneva  
23 April 2018**



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Mr Chairman,

I will provide a brief overview of important developments in key areas of the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency relevant to the implementation of the NPT in the past year.

Transferring nuclear technology to developing countries is core IAEA business and one of the most important areas of our work.

Nuclear science and technology help countries to reduce poverty and hunger, generate electricity, manage water resources, treat diseases such as cancer and respond to climate change – and much more.

The Agency contributes directly to the achievement of nine of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We focus on transferring knowledge and expertise. High-quality technical training helps countries to build their own expertise so they can train future generations of nuclear specialists.

For example, the IAEA Environment Laboratories in Monaco help countries to measure pollution of the seas and oceans so they can take steps to prevent consumers from eating contaminated seafood and protect the livelihoods of fishermen.

The IAEA helps to increase food supplies by developing new varieties of crops such as rice and barley, using nuclear techniques. These are higher-yielding and more resistant to drought and disease.

Cancer control in developing countries is an important focus of our work. Our technical support focuses on radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and imaging technology. We provide education and training for health professionals and sometimes supply equipment.

The modernisation of the IAEA's eight nuclear applications laboratories near Vienna has made excellent progress. They train scientists, support research in human health, food and other areas, and provide analytical services to national laboratories. A new Insect Pest Control Laboratory was inaugurated last September and a Flexible Modular Laboratory building will be launched in November this year.

A new linear accelerator facility will become operational in our Dosimetry Laboratory in the second half of 2018. This will significantly enhance the assistance we can provide to countries in the safe and effective use of radiotherapy.

The Agency's *Peaceful Uses Initiative*, launched in 2010, provides additional funds for our technical cooperation activities. It has helped to raise over 120 million euros for more than 260 projects that benefit around 150 countries. I am grateful to all the countries that support this valuable initiative.

One of the most important IAEA events of this year will be the *Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology*, which will take place in Vienna from November 28 to 30.

Mr Chairman,

Energy is indispensable for development.

Nuclear power can help to address the twin challenges of ensuring reliable energy supplies and curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Today, nuclear power produces 11 percent of the world's electricity. But when it comes to low-carbon electricity, nuclear generates almost one third of the global total.

At present, 450 nuclear power reactors are operational in 30 countries. Around 30 more countries are considering building their first nuclear power plants, or have started doing so. Most of these possible newcomers are developing nations.

Each country decides for itself whether or not to use nuclear power. If countries opt for nuclear power, the IAEA helps them to use it safely, securely and sustainably.

This year's IAEA Scientific Forum in September will be entitled *Nuclear Technology for Climate: Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptation*. It is part of our efforts to raise awareness of the important role of nuclear technology in both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing the consequences of climate change.

Work to establish an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Kazakhstan has continued to progress. The LEU Bank Storage Facility

was inaugurated in August 2017 and we are now in the evaluation stage of the process for procuring the LEU.

Transit agreements between the IAEA and the Russian Federation and between the IAEA and China have entered into force.

Mr Chairman,

Nuclear safety and security are the responsibility of Member States, but the IAEA plays the central role in ensuring effective international cooperation.

Lessons from the Fukushima Daiichi accident have now been incorporated into all IAEA nuclear safety requirements, ensuring that they become part of global safety practice. Safety culture must continue to be strengthened.

Last September, the IAEA Board of Governors adopted the *Nuclear Security Plan 2018-2021* by consensus. The IAEA will continue its work as the global platform for strengthening nuclear security.

Mr Chairman,

Demands upon the Agency in the nuclear verification field are growing steadily because of the additional significant quantities of nuclear material that are coming under safeguards around the world.

The number of States with safeguards agreements in force stands at 182, while 132 States have brought additional protocols into force.

We encourage States Parties to the NPT without comprehensive safeguards agreements in force to bring such agreements into force without delay. We hope that States which have not yet concluded additional protocols will do so as soon as possible.

Since January 2016, the IAEA has been verifying and monitoring Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*.

The fact that Iran is implementing its Additional Protocol has significantly improved our access to locations and information.

IAEA inspectors now spend around 3,000 days per year in the field in Iran, twice as many as in 2013. They have taken hundreds of environmental samples and placed around 2,000 tamper-proof seals on nuclear material and equipment.

Hundreds of thousands of images are captured daily by our sophisticated surveillance cameras. We collect and analyse several million pieces of open-source information each month.

In short, Iran is now subject to the world's most robust nuclear verification regime. Iran is implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. It is essential that Iran continues to fully implement those commitments.

Mr Chairman,

The nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains a major cause for concern.

Our inspectors had to leave the country in 2009. Nevertheless, the Agency continues to collect and evaluate information regarding North Korea's nuclear programme, including by monitoring satellite imagery. We maintain our readiness to resume verification activities in North Korea when political developments make this possible.

The Agency calls upon the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under relevant Security Council resolution and to cooperate with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues, including those that have arisen during the absence of Agency inspectors from the country.

As far as safeguards implementation in the Syrian Arab Republic is concerned, there have been no major developments in the past year.

The IAEA continues to urge Syria to cooperate fully with us in connection with all unresolved issues.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me note that the IAEA makes an important contribution to the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Our safeguards activities, through which we aim to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in countries, are a valuable international confidence-building measure.

We support the creation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and help to implement them. These already cover vast regions of the world.

This concludes my remarks.

Thank you.