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

New York
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IAEA Assistant Director General, Chief Coordinator

(Check against delivery)
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.

Through our technical cooperation programme, the Agency continues to 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.

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.

The Agency has supported nearly 50,000 fellowships since 1956, helping scientists from developing countries to significantly improve their skills. In a recent survey of former fellows, almost 90% of respondents said their placements fully met their professional expectations and the needs of their home institutes.

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

One of the highlights of the past year was our first ever ministerial-level conference on nuclear science and technology in November 2018. Participation exceeded expectations.
The Ministerial Declaration recognised the importance of science and technology for development. It welcomed the modernisation of our nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, near Vienna, which is one of the most important projects ever undertaken by the Agency and nearly complete, thanks to generous contributions from many Member States.

This will enable us to deliver improved services to Member States to make food safer, improve control of harmful insect pests, and maximize the benefits of new radiation technology for cancer treatment – to name just a few examples.

The Agency’s *Peaceful Uses Initiative*, launched in 2010, provides additional funds for our technical cooperation activities. It has helped to raise over 140 million euros for around 300 projects that benefit more than 150 countries. The Agency is grateful to all the countries that support this valuable initiative.

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 10 percent of the world’s electricity. But when it comes to low-carbon electricity, nuclear generates almost one third of the global total.
The Agency’s latest annual projections show that nuclear power will continue to play a key role in the world’s low-carbon energy mix. However, without significant progress on using the full potential of nuclear power, it will be difficult for the world to secure sufficient energy to achieve sustainable development and to mitigate climate change.

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.

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 expect to have the LEU delivered to the Storage Facility this year.

Mr Chairman,

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

We continue to assess the effectiveness of Agency peer review and advisory services in nuclear safety and security so that they can better support Member States in the application of IAEA safety standards and security guidance.
Our work in nuclear security is one of our high priority issues. By helping to prevent nuclear and other radioactive material from falling into the hands of terrorists or other criminals, the Agency makes an additional important contribution to international security.

The next IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security will take place at ministerial level in Vienna in February 2020.

Mr Chairman,

The steady increase in the amount of nuclear material and the number of nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, and continuing pressure on our regular budget, are among the key challenges facing the Agency today.

Under the IAEA Statute, inspections must be financed through the regular budget. For some years, our regular budget has had close to zero increases and this year it has actually been cut. If our regular budget continues to suffer cuts in the coming years, this could seriously affect our nuclear verification activities.

The number of States with safeguards agreements in force stands at 182, while 134 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.
Mr Chairman,

The IAEA has focused on Iran’s nuclear activities since 2002.

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

In his regular reports to the Board, the Director General has stated that Iran is implementing those commitments. It is essential that Iran continues to fully implement its commitments. Our inspectors have had access to all the sites and locations in Iran which they needed to visit.

The Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its NPT Safeguards Agreement. Evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran continue.

The implementation in Iran of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, Additional Protocol, and additional transparency measures under the JCPOA amounts to the most robust verification system in existence anywhere in the world.

Mr Chairman,

IAEA inspectors were required to leave North Korea in April 2009. The Agency continues to monitor the DPRK’s nuclear programme and evaluate all safeguards-relevant information available to it, including open-source information and satellite imagery.
In the past 10 years, the DPRK’s nuclear programme has significantly expanded. The country announced in 2009 that it would start uranium enrichment and build a light water reactor. In 2013, it announced that it would take measures to readjust and restart all the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

Since then, the Agency has observed indications of the operation of the 5MW(e) reactor and reprocessing plant, the extension of the building housing the reported centrifuge enrichment facility, and the construction of the light water reactor. Since 2009, the DPRK has announced on five separate occasions that it had conducted a nuclear test, in addition to the one announced in 2006.

Over the past year, activities at some facilities continued or developed further, while some other facilities appeared not to be operating. The Director General reports regularly on these activities to the IAEA’s Board of Governors. However, without access, the Agency cannot confirm the nature and purpose of these activities.

The IAEA closely follows international developments on the DPRK nuclear issue. We hope that these processes will lead to an agreement and to the implementation of concrete denuclearization measures.

The Agency does not have a role in political negotiations among countries concerned. However, it is important that any agreement on denuclearization is accompanied by an effective and sustainable verification mechanism.
The IAEA, with its long experience and well-established practices, is the only international organization that can verify and monitor denuclearization in an impartial, independent and objective manner. This would help to make the implementation of any agreement sustainable. It would also contribute to the denuclearization of the DPRK in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, as required by numerous resolutions of the Security Council.

Since 2017, the Agency has intensified its efforts to monitor the DPRK nuclear programme and enhanced its readiness to undertake verification and monitoring activities in the DPRK if a political agreement is reached among countries concerned. Subject to the approval of our Board of Governors, we could respond within weeks to any request to send inspectors back to the DPRK.

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, the IAEA makes an important contribution to the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons in a number of ways.

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 assist States in creating nuclear-weapon-free zones, which already cover vast regions of the world.

If requested by Member States, the IAEA can play a role in nuclear disarmament by sharing its experience in the implementation of verification.

Mr Chairman,

To conclude, let me note that, with our *Atoms for Peace and Development* mandate, the Agency has supported the United Nations in all NPT Review Conferences. Our dual role of nuclear verification and assisting with peaceful uses remains highly relevant to States Parties to the NPT.

Thank you.