

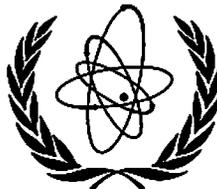
**STATEMENT TO THE 71ST SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE, GENERAL DEBATE**

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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Mr Chairman,

We congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the First Committee during the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.

In September the IAEA started celebrating its 60th anniversary. It is a significant milestone in our history. By making nuclear science and technology available to improve human well-being and prosperity, we have made a real difference to the lives of millions of people throughout the world. We have also made a unique contribution to international peace and security through our work to verify that nuclear material remains in peaceful uses.

A core function of the IAEA is to verify that countries are not working to acquire nuclear weapons. Agency inspectors conduct verification at nuclear facilities all over the world. They bring back samples which are analyzed for possible traces of nuclear material. The IAEA independently verifies the *correctness* and *completeness* of declarations made by States about their nuclear material and activities. Safeguards provide credible assurances that States are fulfilling their international obligations not to develop nuclear weapons. They also make it possible to detect any misuse of nuclear material or technology in a timely manner by alerting the world to potential proliferation. Safeguards are therefore a vital component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Safeguards agreements are currently in force with 182 States, of which 174 are NPT non-nuclear-weapon States with comprehensive safeguards agreements. However, twelve States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have yet to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency as required by Article III of that Treaty. For these States Parties, the IAEA cannot draw any safeguards conclusions. The Agency continues, therefore, to urge all remaining NPT States Parties to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements as soon as possible.

The number of States with additional protocols in force continues to rise. It now stands at 128. This is encouraging as the implementation of an additional protocol significantly increases the Agency's ability to verify the peaceful use of all nuclear material in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements in force. The Agency encourages all States to bring additional protocols into force.

The Agency also stands ready to assist with verification tasks, in accordance with the Agency's Statute, in connection with nuclear disarmament or arms control arrangements, if requested by States that are party to such arrangements and if approved by the Board of Governors. In addition, the IAEA has supported the creation of Nuclear-Weapon Free Zones.

The IAEA plays the central role in helping the world to act in unison against the threat of nuclear terrorism. We provide nuclear security training, help countries to improve the physical security of

facilities at which nuclear materials are held, and maintain the most authoritative global database on illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials.

This year we achieved an important milestone when the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material entered into force, nearly 11 years since it was first adopted. The Amendment makes it legally binding for countries to protect nuclear facilities, as well as nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport. It will reduce the risk of a terrorist attack involving nuclear material, which could have catastrophic consequences.

We continue to urge all countries to adhere to this important legal instrument. Universal implementation of the amended Convention will ensure that nuclear and other radioactive material throughout the world is properly protected against malicious acts by terrorists.

Thank you.

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