



Statement by Geoffrey Shaw
Representative of the Director General of the
International Atomic Energy Agency to the United Nations

High-level Meeting of the General Assembly
on Nuclear Disarmament

New York, 26 September 2013

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I welcome the opportunity to address this High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament on behalf of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Yukiya Amano.

The IAEA is best known for its work of verifying that States are fully complying with their non-proliferation obligations and confirming that nuclear material is used for exclusively peaceful purposes.

The IAEA also works to promote the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear technology around the globe in areas such as electricity generation, agriculture, health, water management and environmental protection.

But it is less well known that the IAEA is working towards a world free of nuclear weapons. We contribute in four main ways.

First, the IAEA can play a role in nuclear disarmament through verification, upon request – for example, helping to build confidence by verifying independently that nuclear materials from dismantled weapons will not be used again for military purposes.

In 2010, the Agency was asked by the Russian Federation and the United States to independently verify implementation of their agreement on the disposition of plutonium no longer required for defence purposes.

As recommended by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the Agency stands ready to cooperate in increasing confidence, improving transparency and developing efficient verification capabilities related to nuclear disarmament.

Second, the IAEA supports the creation of new Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and helps to implement them. These already cover vast regions of the world.

In November 2011, Director General Amano convened an *IAEA Forum on Experience of Possible Relevance to the Creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East*. In addition, as requested in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document, the Agency prepared background documentation for the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction

Third, the Agency's safeguards inspectors work around the globe to verify that nuclear materials from civilian nuclear programmes are not diverted to nuclear weapons.

Fourth, IAEA nuclear security experts work with countries to help prevent nuclear materials from falling into the hands of terrorist groups. The nuclear threat does not exist only at the level of nation states.

In July this year, the Agency convened an *International Conference on Nuclear Security* to review past achievements and current approaches and to identify priorities for the future. This was the first such conference at ministerial level, open to all IAEA Member States and one of the largest conferences ever held by the Agency. Ministers adopted a Declaration with a firm commitment to strengthen nuclear security throughout the world and affirmed the IAEA's central role.

Mr President,

Let me add a few words on the IAEA's safeguards activities.

Non-Nuclear-Weapon States party to the NPT are required to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency, under which we conduct regular inspections of their nuclear material and activities. We also conduct safeguards under different agreements with nuclear weapon States and non-NPT States.

Safeguards agreements are currently in force with 181 States. However, twelve non-nuclear-weapon States have yet to meet their obligations under the NPT and conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency. For these States, the Agency cannot draw any safeguards conclusions. The Agency urges all these States to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements as soon as possible.

The additional protocol to safeguards agreements greatly enhances the IAEA's verification capability by giving us expanded access to information and to relevant locations. It enables us to provide credible assurance not only about the non-diversion of *declared* nuclear material – that is, material about which a country has notified us – but also about the absence of *undeclared* nuclear material and activities.

Such credible assurances are highly effective tools of international and regional confidence building.

The number of countries with additional protocols in force has been rising steadily and now stands at 121. This is an encouraging development. The Agency encourages *all* States to bring additional protocols into force as soon as possible.

The IAEA has been working to improve the operational effectiveness of its safeguards laboratories near Vienna. This will strengthen the Agency's ability to provide independent and timely analysis of nuclear material and environmental samples.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me, on behalf of Director General Amano, reaffirm the IAEA's commitment to work with Member States for a world free of nuclear weapons.

The IAEA contributes to the achievement of that objective by making its safeguards expertise available upon request for the implementation of nuclear disarmament, by exercising credible verification, by promoting effective nuclear security, and by helping member states in establishing and implementing nuclear weapon free zones.

Thank you.