

Statement of Hungary

Delivered by

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Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you for being elected to preside over this very important conference. Please be assured that the Hungarian delegation will do its best to help you in discharging your duties. I am sure that with your able leadership this Conference will be a success.

I would like to join others in greeting Brunei Darussalam and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as new members of the Agency. I would like to express our readiness to cooperate with them in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Let me seize this opportunity and congratulate Mr. Amano as well for being reelected as Director General of the Agency. We are of the view that under his leadership the Agency continued to effectively serve its Member States and therefore my country has fully supported his reelection for a second term which he earned with hard work. Let me use this occasion to reassure Mr. Amano of the continuing support of Hungary.

I would like to reiterate that Hungary fully associates itself with the statement made earlier by Lithuania on behalf of the EU.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

This year we can in particular feel in Hungary the effects of climate change. During the early days of the summer we had to cope with the flooding which were then followed by the extreme heat (in our region) combined with drought.

For this reason it is for us extremely gratifying that Hungary produces 40% of its electricity at Paks without emitting greenhouse gases. Turning to Paks NPP: we have presented our National Action Plan to the European Commission on the targeted safety enhancements of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant and on the enhancements of our nuclear safety legislation by the end of last year. Some of the proposed measures have been implemented already, others are under way. It is envisaged that by the end of 2018 all of the items covered by the National Action Plan will be implemented. These actions integrate well with Nuclear Safety. We are pleased to note the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the Action Plan.

As we have informed you at previous General Conferences, the Paks NPP applied for the service life extension of Unit 1 for additional 20 years. The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority examined the application and found that the licensee has shown appropriate assurances that the unit can be safely operated for additional 20 years and thus have granted the license on the condition of executing periodic safety assessment(s) during the extended lifetime.

In 2013 the Paks NPP hosted a SALTO mission and also initiated an OSART review of the plant, which is envisaged to take place in 2014.

Mr. President,

With great pride I would like to inform you that last year we have inaugurated the National Radioactive Waste Repository at Bábaapáti (for low and intermediate level waste). This event marks a significant achievement in Hungary since it required long and thorough technical preparation to find an appropriate site. It also took tremendous effort to gain public support for the establishment of the repository. Additionally the engineering aspect of the repository had to be considered followed by the construction work. Today the

NPP has transferred significant amount of low and intermediate level waste to the Bataapati repository which is receiving, processing and disposing of the waste. The repository is planned to be able to accept waste throughout the whole lifetime and decommissioning of the Paks NPP. We are grateful for the support of the international community, among them that of the Agency, without which the completion of the Repository could not have been achieved.

Mr. President,

Hungary had the honor to preside over the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts held in July this year. The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. János Martonyi, served as president of this successful meeting resulting in a Ministerial Declaration. The Conference was attended by 1300 delegates from 125 States and 34 ministers of governments among them. The message of the Conference, adopted by consensus, concurs with the view of my government that the security of nuclear installations and material is of utmost importance. The IPPAS mission carried out in Hungary in May this year testifies to this. The results of the mission which was a very thorough examination of our entire nuclear security system-starting from legislation through education to practical implementation- are now in the process of being translated into practical action on our side. We were pleased to note that the reviewers were impressed by the great number of good practices identified during the mission.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to inform you of several visits of trainees from interested Member States in practical medical applications of nuclear energy at ScanoMed Hungary

in Debrecen where they had the opportunity to study PET/CT application in theory and in practice. The interest was so intense that the Agency had to organize the training in two separate groups this year, following the training course that took place at the end of last year. The clinical exercise gives the participants access to practical skills needed in their daily work. According to our expectations ScanoMed will continue their educational activities with the Agency.

Mr. President,

As in each year I take pride to inform you that the Hungarian support for the Agency's safeguards activities again took the form of a practical training for safeguards inspectors in Hungary. The participants had the opportunity to conduct in--field measurements and evaluations. It has been confirmed again that the hands-on training is a good practical aid for the Agency's inspectors during their daily work. Another aspect of my country's commitment to the safeguards regime is the work the Centre for Energy Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences commits in the field of nuclear forensics: method development and application of destructive and non-destructive characterization techniques, application and development of nuclear analytical techniques for nuclear safeguards.

The Centre for Energy Research operates the nuclear forensics laboratory in Hungary. The collaboration in nuclear security between the IAEA and the HAEA and the Centre for Energy Research has a long tradition and has been formalized recently by signing practical arrangements among the parties.. To further strengthen our nuclear forensics activities and in order to set out the framework for cooperation and continue the good relationships Hungary and

IAEA intend to embed these practical arrangements into an umbrella agreement scheduled to be signed at this General Conference.

The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority organized together with the European Commission a Booster exercise. The Booster system developed in the EU was tested in a simulation of a dirty bomb attack. The system proved to be helpful in integrating individual components with a powerful communication system and a locally set up evaluation center. The use of the system made it easier and faster to understand and contain the damage as well as to separate those victims that need immediate assistance from those who were less affected by the radiation and the blast

I am looking forward with great interest to the work of the recently formed Center of Excellence doing research in Generation 4 – gas cooled fast reactors. The cooperation of research institutes of the Visegrád 4 countries holds the promise of feasible new nuclear technologies.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates

Hungary attaches great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities. While we understand that the funds available for such cooperation activities are limited, our experience has also shown that if those limited funds are invested properly, answering real needs of a Member State, they will bring tremendous impact. For this reason we are of the view that the participation and experience of those countries having advanced nuclear/radiological infrastructure is indispensable in technical cooperation (as the notion itself suggests working together –sharing experience; common effort)

This is exactly the reason why we have proposed that the expertise of Hungarian facilities and individuals in several fields be used by the Agency in the framework of the 2014-15 TC Europe Programme.

We are of the view that the implementation of the Strategy for TC Europe elevated the relationship between the Secretariat and the Member States to a new level, shifting from assistance to real cooperation. I commend the Agency for taking this bold step.

Mr. President,

Hungary is working hard on the implementation of our strategy for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. In this respect Hungary considers that nuclear energy is making an important contribution while it is also a clean and efficient way of ensuring the security of our energy supply. This is why the operator of our Paks NPP is seeking service life extension for the units of the Paks NPP, while the MVM Hungarian Electricity Ltd, a fully state owned company is preparing for building new units at the Paks site. In these activities MVM Hungarian Electricity Ltd enjoys the full support of my government.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates

In closing let me reiterate that Hungary, a long-time member of the Agency, considers that peaceful uses of nuclear energy serve the people, contribute significantly to clean energy production and so are significant ingredients of the global energy mix. We see that the Agency works on bringing this energy safely to the people for their benefit and for this Hungary lends its full support to the Agency in reaching its goals.

Thank you, Mr. President