

Statement on behalf of
The Republic of Hungary

Delivered by

Mr. Pál Kovács

State Secretary for Climate and Energy Affairs
Ministry of National Development

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Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to 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 Fiji, San Marino and Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Hungary fully associates itself with the statement made earlier by Cyprus on behalf of the EU.

Mr. President,

Hungary is convinced that a consensual approach is the only way to make progress towards implementing the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference of convening a Conference in 2012 to address the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East, which provides a concrete opportunity to address issues of concern to the region.

We were proud to greet Director General Amano in Hungary, where he met members of the government and Parliament. Mr Amano was introduced to the achievements of the peaceful nuclear applications pursued in Hungary. He visited the Paks NPP, and while visiting the Centre for Energy Research he was shown the experimental version of the RPV external cooling system being introduced at the Paks NPP.

We have the XXXth Olympic Games behind us, and we are proud of the outstanding performance of our sportsmen, having won a total of 31 medals at the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics. But I am equally proud of the performance of the people working in the nuclear field in Hungary. Based on the findings of the targeted safety reassessment – the so called stress test, initiated by the EU – there is no urgent need to take measures as the Paks NPP was found to be able to withstand extreme environmental situations.

Our national report on stress test was submitted to the EU by the end of last year and an international peer review followed suit in March this year. The review concluded that the National Report was correct in its form and adequate in its content, and that the Hungarian participants were open and very cooperative during the whole process. The stress test was executed with exceptional care and thus the findings in the National Report do not need any additional measures besides the actions proposed therein according to the reviewers. Based on these findings in the Targeted Safety Reassessment National Report the operator – the Paks NPP – has submitted its proposal to further enhance the safety of the plant even under extreme conditions. The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority, the regulatory body, is currently examining this plan.

The regulatory body is now heavily engaged in the process of extending the service life of the Paks NPP. In a fortnight there will be a public hearing regarding the lifetime extension, conducive to the decision about the operating licence of unit 1 of the Paks NPP. The operator applied for the extension of the operating lifetime of unit 1 for additional 20 years. The application was the landmark of a 12 years process, in which the Paks NPP prepared for the extended operation of the units beyond their design lifetime. In parallel to the Paks NPP's preparation the HAEA took part in the process of adjusting the

national legal system to the requirements of the lifetime extension of the NPP in accordance with international practice.

In order to accelerate the strategic and administrative decisions necessary for the new units at the Paks NPP site, the Hungarian government established (with Government Resolution 1195/2012. VI. 18) a Governmental Commission on Nuclear Energy, headed by the Prime Minister, and consisting of the minister of National Development – the ministry in charge of the energy infrastructure – and of the minister for National Economy. We are ready to share with all interested partners the strategy followed by my government of the expansion of our nuclear programme.

Mr President,

During the 4th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention (on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management) held in May this year our delegation presented the aspects of managing radioactive waste. The Conference found that the Hungarian practice is in accordance with international standards, and indicated quite a number of best practices, among others the repatriation of the HEU fuel of the Budapest Research Reactor, that is accomplished with the efficient participation of the Agency.

I am sure that the topics discussed two weeks ago at the extraordinary meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and especially the conclusions, will soon be built in to the safety features of the nuclear infrastructure world-wide.

We are satisfied that the action to upgrade regional emergency response centres also gained attention at the recent CNS meeting. The outcome of the extraordinary meeting will indeed provide a boost to our experts currently working on a concept of establishing regional Emergency Support and Training Centres.

This brings me to the IAEA Action Plan on nuclear safety approved by the last General Conference. I can assure you that Hungary fully supports the implementation of the Action Plan and commends the Agency for making good progress on it. As I outlined earlier we already completed our safety reassessment and we would be prepared to make any necessary further steps if required to improve the safe operation of the Paks NPP.

We are prepared to provide assistance and I am satisfied that there is interest from a number of states in the experience and know-how in the area of NPP maintenance which Hungary can offer. The highly sophisticated maintenance training centre with real equipment, established with the assistance of the Agency is now being used to train experts from abroad without the risk of radiation. Last week, on the 12th of September, we started the implementation of a training course for over 100 experts from Vietnam in Budapest at the Budapest Technical University and at our Nuclear Power Plant. The programme includes a complete nuclear training course about the safe operation of a new NPP. We continue to stand ready to share our experience and expertise with Member States planning or embarking on new nuclear programs.

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates,

I am delighted to inform you that we have reached agreement among the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Hungary regarding the transportation of nuclear material through Ukraine. Following the legal review by the European Commission of the document, we are set to sign the agreement this autumn.

Hungary in full co-operation with the Agency continues to fulfil its commitment made this March at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, regarding a nuclear security training course to be held in Hungary. Nuclear security plays an important role among the activities of the Agency and for those working with equipment using ionizing radiation. On this approach we have initiated an

IPPAS mission to Hungary which we expect to take place mid next year. We hope that our measures to implement the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material meet or exceed international expectations towards such systems.

Mr President,

Hungary is committed to improve safeguards culture in facilities using ionizing radiation. In 2011 the state system of accounting for and control of nuclear material was enhanced by a comprehensive domestic safeguards verification system consisting of regular comprehensive verifications throughout the whole lifetime of the facilities.

Hungary continues to contribute to the IAEA's safeguards support program. Beyond our traditional training of safeguards inspectors and assistance in development of measurement methods I would like to highlight our participation in two new tasks:

“Acquisition Path Analysis Methodology and Software Package” and “Collection and Analysis of Nuclear Trade Related Information to Strengthen Safeguards”.

The Hungarian Support Program has provided the Agency with a prototype methodology for Acquisition Path Analysis based on a directed graph approach.

At this point I would like to mention that two well known technical support organizations, the Institute of Isotopes, and the Atomic Energy Research Institute have joined their forces by 1st of January 2012 and formed the Centre for Energy Research. The merging is expected to enhance the effective use of the research infrastructure available at their common campus.

Mr President,

As we have previously reported the Institute of Nuclear Techniques of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics have started a Physicists

Master's course specializing in medical physics. I have the honour to inform you that the first group of 11 medical physicists has graduated. Most of the new graduates will continue their academic work as PhD students at Universities at home or abroad.

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me highlight our work in the area of Technical Cooperation. I would like to emphasize that Hungary attaches great importance to the third pillar of the Agency. Hungary has fully paid its share of the TC Fund in 2012. I am proud that Hungary this year also made an extra-budgetary contribution of 60,000 euros to the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) with the intention of supporting water related programmes in Indonesia, Pakistan and Uganda. We have always been an active participant of the Agency's TC Program and are willing to continue this tradition. This year marked an increase in the number of experts taking part in IAEA workshops and also in the number of meetings held in my country. We experience the beneficial effects of the implemented Strategy for TC Europe which has made our cooperation with the Secretariat smoother.

Mr President,

Finally, let me reiterate the Hungarian Government's position: nuclear energy will continue to contribute significantly to the global energy mix. For this the Agency enjoys the full support of the Hungarian authorities.

Thank you.