

Statement by H E. Mr. Pál KOVÁCS
Governor of Hungary to the IAEA,
Secretary of State, Ministry of National Development, Hungary
IAEA Board of Governors 10th September 2012

Item 4, Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary fully associates itself with the statement of the European Union delivered earlier by Cyprus. Let me briefly highlight some points of our national interest.

Hungary reaffirms its strong support for the Agency's efforts to strengthen nuclear safety globally. I would like to thank Director General Amano for the preparation of the document related to this item. We also thank Deputy Director General Flory for the technical briefing held on the 24th of August.

Mr, Chairman,

We acknowledge the leading role of the Agency in the field of nuclear safety. In its continuous support to States in strengthening and enhancing safety, the Agency has made effective and coordinated use of available resources through the implementation of appraisal and advisory missions, expert missions, fellowships, training courses and other activities under the technical cooperation (TC) programme as well as through extrabudgetary projects.

Hungary attaches great importance to the safe use of nuclear energy and we are committed to the worldwide achievement of the highest standards of nuclear safety.

During his stay between the 20th and 21st of June in Hungary DG Amano met with decision-makers and visited important sites of Hungary's nuclear energy program including the Nuclear Power Plant in Paks. One of the common intentions of Hungary and the IAEA is to widen and deepen co-operation in the field of nuclear safety.

On September 12 Hungary will start the implementation of a training course for over 100 experts from Vietnam to take place in Budapest and at our Nuclear Power Plant. The programme will include 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 embarking or planning new nuclear programs.

Mr. Chairman,

Besides the importance of theoretical and practical implications of nuclear safety it is vital to raise the awareness and to highlight the importance of the legal architecture of nuclear safety. The extraordinary meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety held between the 27th and 31st of August discussed lessons learned so far from the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima nuclear power plant and reviewed the effectiveness of the provisions of the Convention. We welcome that the Contracting Parties recognized that objectives must be accomplished in addition to meeting the on-going safety obligations for currently operating facilities.

We would especially like to express our support for the action to upgrade regional emergency response centres. We are satisfied that this topic 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.

Mr. Chairman,

Openness and transparency is essential in demonstrating that nuclear is a viable option in the energy mix and in strengthening public confidence. The Government of Hungary this June declared the intention to complete the expansion of our NPP to be of strategic importance and also fundamentally necessary in order to secure energy demands. {The Governmental Decision in this regard also specifies the need to start targeted research and development projects to make available experts in the field of nuclear safety during the course of the new build.} We are also ready to share with all interested partners the strategy followed by my government of the expansion of our nuclear programme.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.