

Statement of Hungary

IAEA Board of Governors 4th March 2013

Item 3 Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

(a) Nuclear Safety Review 2013

(b) Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reaffirm our strong support for the Agency's efforts to strengthen nuclear safety globally. I would like to thank Director General Amano and the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents related to this item.

We acknowledge the leading role of the Agency in the field of nuclear safety. Hungary attaches great importance to the safe use of nuclear energy and we are committed to the highest standards of nuclear safety.

Transparency is essential in strengthening public confidence and in demonstrating that nuclear is a viable option in the energy mix. The Fukushima Conference has served its principal objective to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide by providing the opportunity to learn lessons from the tragic accident. Hence, it is vital to continue sharing the lessons learned among the international community via the relevant IAEA projects.

In order to show openness, the President of Women in Nuclear Global (WIN Global) was invited to Hungary to visit the Paks NPP in January this year. Women play an important role in the promotion and awareness-raising of the benefits of the safe and secure use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman!

With regard to the International Conference on Nuclear Security on the 1st of July let me echo what DG Amano has just announced: the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs is ready to chair this important event. Hungary remains fully committed to the strengthening of nuclear security and acknowledges the leading role of the Agency in this field. Hence, the Government of Hungary has initiated an IPPAS mission which will be opened by DDG Denis Flory at the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority and is to take place from the 27th of May.

Mr. Chairman!

The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority is obliged to report yearly to the Hungarian Government and the Parliament on the safe application of nuclear energy. This year the report was approved unanimously by the Sustainable Development Committee of the Hungarian Parliament. The report declares that the Paks NPP, the Budapest Research Reactor

and the Training reactor of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics were operated safely, according to the licensed limits and conditions.

On 5th December 2012, the low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste management facility in Bataapati, that has already been visited by the international community, was inaugurated, and some days after, at the end of a 12-year process, the Hungarian regulatory body has granted the licence for the extension of the operating lifetime of Paks NPP's unit 1 for an additional 20-year period.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the quality of nuclear education is the foundation of nuclear safety. We would like to encourage countries wishing to embark on a nuclear power program to continue their work. We are prepared to provide assistance and I am satisfied with the widespread 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 being used to train experts from abroad without the risk of radiation.

Last year, we started a training programme for over 100 experts from Vietnam taking place at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and at the training centre of our Nuclear Power Plant. The programme includes a complete nuclear training course about the safe operation of a new NPP. The next course is planned to begin in a week with 42 participants. We continue to stand ready to share our experience and expertise with Member States embarking or planning new nuclear programs.

The Hungarian government is committed to expand the Paks Nuclear Power Plant. The Project Company (Paks II Nuclear Power Plant Development Company) was established by the MVM Hungarian Electricity Company last August. This company is in charge of carrying out the Bid Invitation Specification in the near future. We are expecting five potential vendors to submit their proposals.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman