

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 5th June 2012

Item 6 Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary fully associates itself with the statement of the European Union delivered earlier by Denmark. 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 the 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 25 May.

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.

Mr. Chairman,

In the aftermath of the Fukushima accident, we believe that it is vital to restore trust and full confidence in the safety of nuclear power.

It is also important to show to a wider audience that nuclear power plants operate safely and in an eco-friendly way. Our exhibition at the VIC Rotunda last month about nature and the Paks NPP demonstrated this approach. In this spirit we have organized visits for Vienna based diplomats to our NPP in Paks and also to our radioactive waste management facility.

We would also 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 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.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary would like to reaffirm the need that mechanisms responding to and managing a nuclear incident need to be enhanced, both within countries and at regional and international levels. After the Fukushima accident the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response became one of the

main points of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. We strongly agree with the need to strengthen the global emergency preparedness and response system. Allow me to recall that at our last meeting in March we supported the concept of establishing Emergency Support and Training Centres. Our proposal to examine mechanisms for establishing regional emergency response arrangements remains valid. We hope that this topic would also gain due attention at the forthcoming extraordinary meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety at the end of August.

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 Hungarian Parliament last November adopted the National Energy Strategy. This document confirms the inevitable role of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and highlights that according to current technological knowledge nuclear is fundamental in the long term. Nuclear energy is an efficient way to reduce global carbon dioxide emissions and prevent climate change. The planned expansion of our operating power plant would fulfill the following aims of the Hungarian Energy Strategy:

- the diversification of energy sources
- the reduction of unilateral dependence on gas
- the safe, economical and stable supply of energy
- the reduction of the impact of energy on the environment

In order to prepare the strategic decisions about the planned expansion of our NPP, the Hungarian Government last week decided to set up a Governmental Commission responsible for this project. The commission is to be headed by the Prime Minister, and the other two members are the Minister for Economy and the Minister for National Development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.