



IAEA Board of Governors, March 2026, Iran

Statement by Norway

Chair,

Norway aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Cyprus on behalf of the European Union, and would like to add the following in our national capacity.

We are now witnessing an extremely serious situation rapidly unfolding in the Middle East. The attacks on Iran are continuing, while Iran is launching strikes against a number of countries in the region, including countries that were not involved in the attacks on Iran. These indiscriminate Iranian attacks go well beyond self-defense and are completely unacceptable. We call on all parties to respect international law, protect civilians, and seek diplomatic solutions.

At this critical juncture, we urge all parties to step back from escalation, uphold international law, and Iran to engage constructively with the IAEA. Diplomacy - not force - remains the only viable path to stability, transparency, and long-term non-proliferation assurances. Any military action that endangers nuclear facilities poses grave risks to people, the region, and global peace and security.

We thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their professionalism and reporting on the Iranian nuclear file. Their work is indispensable, although the Agency's access is restricted, and its mandate is being tested.

The Director General's reports clearly show that the IAEA's verification work has been severely disrupted, resulting in a loss of continuity in knowledge about key nuclear facilities and materials. The more than 440 kg of uranium enriched up to 60 % U-235 is of high concern in this regard, and we share the DG's assessment that this is a matter of proliferation concern and of compliance with the NPT Safeguards Agreement. It is essential that IAEA gets full access to be insured that Iran never possess nuclear weapons.

Norway fully supports the Director General, the IAEA's mandate and its efforts to promote transparency, safety, security, and the peaceful resolution of nuclear-related issues in Iran. We also underline that the safety of IAEA staff is of paramount importance.

Norway has consistently voiced concern over Iran's nuclear programme. It is essential to find a lasting solution in full adherence with the NPT.

Thank you, Chair.