

IAEA General Conference, 2026

**Statement for the general debate, Mr Rolf Einar Fife,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the
IAEA.**

President,

**I would like to warmly congratulate you on assuming the
Presidency of the General Conference. Our sincere thanks go
to Director General Rafael Grossi for an eloquent initial report
that clearly sets the stage. Allow me to add a warm welcome
to Timor-Leste as a new member of the IAEA.**

**Russia's illegal and unprovoked war against Ukraine
continues. Russia's military presence at the Zaporizhzhya
Nuclear Power Plant is unacceptable and creates an
unprecedented risk to nuclear safety and security. Russia
must withdraw its forces from Ukraine's internationally
recognized territory and return the plant to the full control of
the competent Ukrainian authorities.**

**We commend the Director General and his team for their
steadfast commitment to nuclear safety, security and
safeguards in Ukraine. The IAEA's continued presence,
support, and assistance missions provide essential
information, independent and objective assessments, and
practical assistance.**

**Norway fully supports the Agency's seven indispensable
pillars for nuclear safety and security and the five concrete
principles for the Zaporizhzhya Plant. We support the**

resolution on nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine, and encourage all Member States to support it.

Norway has cooperated closely with Ukrainian authorities on nuclear safety and security for many years. Since 2022, we have significantly increased our financial and technical assistance.

Norway is proud to provide substantial support to the IAEA's work in Ukraine. We remain committed to reducing nuclear and radiological risks through targeted assistance and close cooperation with Ukraine, the IAEA and international partners. In this regard, the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority is working with the Agency on a new two year support agreement for nuclear safety and security assistance in Ukraine. We look forward to continuing this close cooperation.

President,

The NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The IAEA is indispensable to verify compliance with non-proliferation obligations and enabling all States to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

As the Agency's responsibilities continue to expand, Member States must ensure that its resources keep pace with its mandate. Growing expectations in the fields of safeguards, safety, security and peaceful uses cannot be met indefinitely through efficiencies alone. A strong, independent and

adequately resourced IAEA remains in the interest of all Member States.

Strong safeguards are essential to international confidence. A comprehensive safeguards agreement provides the Agency with important tools to verify declared nuclear material and activities. However, the Additional Protocol gives the Agency the broader information and access it needs to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities. Combined, these two instruments constitute the current verification standard.

As interest in nuclear energy expands and new technologies and applications emerge, the importance of the Additional Protocol increases correspondingly. Norway therefore calls on all States that have not yet done so to conclude and bring an Additional Protocol into force without delay.

President,

We welcome the Director General's engagement with Syria and the significant progress achieved in addressing longstanding safeguards issues. We commend the transparency and cooperation shown by the Syrian authorities and encourage Syria to continue its close cooperation with the Agency. We also encourage Syria to conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol without delay to further strengthen confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear activities.

Norway welcomes the IAEA's continued efforts to restore cooperation with Iran. We remain seriously concerned about

Iran's accumulation of highly enriched uranium, the whereabouts and status of this material and the IAEA's lack of access to these sites. This is in contradiction to Iran's commitments under the NPT. We reaffirm our strong support for a diplomatic solution that ensures the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We appreciate that the IAEA stands ready to resume verification at all sites in Iran. Norway will make a financial contribution to support the IAEA's technical capabilities in this regard.

Norway condemns the ballistic missile tests of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and continued development of its nuclear programme. Russia's illegal military cooperation with the DPRK is highly concerning, and we call on the parties to immediately cease these activities. We call on the DPRK to return to dialogue and to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. We appreciate the Agency's readiness to resume verification activities in the DPRK.

President,

Nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing. Norway calls for universal adherence to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Norway strongly supports minimizing and ultimately eliminating civilian use and stocks of highly enriched uranium. We call all Member States to subscribe to and implement INFCIRC/912.

President,

The IAEA plays an important role for the Sustainable Development goals and the 2030 Agenda. Capacity building will continue to be a key activity for the IAEA. Nuclear science and technology contribute to meeting energy, health, environmental, and agricultural needs. The IAEA plays a key role in ensuring that these benefits are available to all, within a strong framework for safety, security, and safeguards. Norway remains committed to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme and the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

We also commend the Agency's efforts to increase the representation of women throughout the Secretariat and to promote women's participation and diversity across the nuclear field.

Thank you