



STATEMENT

by Mr. SERGIY BOZHKO

Head of the Delegation of Ukraine

to the 58th session of the IAEA General Conference,

Chairman of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine

(September 2014, Vienna)

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 58th session of the IAEA General Conference. I believe that your extensive experience and professional skills will lead the conference to success.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Ukraine to welcome the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu as new member states of the IAEA and wish them every success in their cooperation with the Agency. We are convinced that the expansion of the IAEA membership is an additional proof to the Agency's growing authority.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates!

Ukraine is a non-nuclear-weapon state that uses nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Ukraine fully recognizes the IAEA's mission and principles outlined in the Statute, follows basic safety fundamentals and fully complies with

obligations taken under the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Joint Convention, Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material with 2005 Amendment as well as provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement between Ukraine and the IAEA and Additional Protocol thereto.

We fully respect and strictly follow the principles and norms of the international law and fully implement our obligations under other bilateral and multilateral treaties, which Ukraine is a party to.

Mr. President,

For the last several months Ukraine survives unprecedented in modern history times. Events taking place in Ukraine brought into light new urgent challenges for the system of regional and universal safety and security and put under question the existing norms of international law. Threats to political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine became evident to the international community, which expressed its support and called upon relevant actions within the United Nations General Assembly Resolution “Territorial integrity of Ukraine” adopted on 27 March of 2014.

Mr. President,

Ukraine reiterates a paramount importance of the IAEA safeguards in providing effective control over sensitive materials and activities. The Agency’s system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Measures contained in the Additional Protocol form an integral part of this system. The Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with Additional Protocol constitute the best verification standard. We continue to call on those states, which have not brought into force the AP to their CSA yet to follow the lead. Universal adherence to both instruments is a key to strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Ukraine supports the Agency in its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and to improve the efficiency of its safeguards system. We took note of the Report of the Director General “Supplementary document to the report on the conceptualization and development of safeguards implementation at the state level” and commend the work done by the Agency with the view of further supporting safeguards application and providing possibilities to fulfill new tasks related to the development of nuclear technologies.

We are committed to the consistent approach of the Agency towards application of safeguards to all nuclear facilities and materials in Ukraine in accordance with international law and the Statute of the IAEA, proceeding from the fact that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol remain an integral part of Ukraine.

Ukraine is calling upon the IAEA and member-states to counter possible attempts of Russian Federation towards unilateral change of national status of the nuclear facilities and nuclear materials located in Crimea, the inalienable part of the territory of Ukraine.

We stand firm, universally recognized principles and norms of international law should remain inviolable.

Mr. President,

We are strongly convinced in the Agency’s key role in promoting worldwide nuclear safety, which is one of the fundamental objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty that represents a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security and stability.

Now, facing many challenges and threats, international community takes all efforts and steps to increase the efficiency and reinforce the NPT regime. In this regard, we cannot underestimate the role of upcoming 2015 NPT Review Conference. We hope that this Conference will bring light to

many sensitive issues and will find solutions to strengthen current international developments.

Ukraine would like to remind that NPT does not delegate responsibilities only to non-nuclear weapon states, but also, there are very important obligations for the nuclear weapon states and only through joint efforts, the World will be safe and secure. In the 21st century, by no means, the nuclear weapons should be used to threaten or blackmail in order to reach political goals of a particular country.

Mr. President,

Nowadays, nuclear security is an important and integral part of the Agency's activity. Ukraine commends the IAEA for its activities aimed at assisting states in preventing and combating nuclear terrorism. We would like to emphasize the central role of the IAEA in fostering international cooperation in nuclear security, in establishing a comprehensive set of nuclear security guidelines and in assisting member states, upon their request, to enhance nuclear security.

Ukraine reaffirms its view that the responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual state. All states have the responsibility to establish appropriate systems and take necessary measures to prevent, detect and respond to malicious acts involving nuclear material.

However, current situation in and around Ukraine cannot but should be of deep concern for the international community. Nowadays, there is no guarantee that any member state of the Agency might not encounter such circumstances. Therefore, we appeal to the Agency and its member states to intensify dialogue and cooperation in that respect.

Joining international initiatives Ukraine welcomes the success of the Hague Nuclear Security Summit and notes considerable progress in strengthening nuclear security worldwide, while recognizing that continuous efforts are needed to achieve the goals.

In that respect we call upon all states that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and to ratify its 2005 Amendment as soon as possible and to act in accordance with the object and purpose of the Amendment pending its entry into force.

Mr. President,

We strongly support the Agency's activities aimed at improving nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety worldwide.

We are convinced that the highest level of nuclear safety culture shall become an integral part of the global strategies of sustainable development of the international community.

Mr. President,

We reiterate our strong support for the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). Ukraine values its role in the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of human health, waste management, strengthening nuclear and radiation safety. The TCP serves as a powerful tool for exchange of nuclear knowledge and capacity building in member states. The IAEA regional and national technical cooperation projects have significantly contributed to nuclear safety and improving an overall effectiveness of peaceful use of nuclear energy in Ukraine.

Mr. President,

The accidents at the Chernobyl NPP and Fukushima-Daiichi NPP have triggered the revision of international nuclear safety standards to ensure the highest level of nuclear, waste and radiation safety worldwide and relevant system of emergency preparedness and response. We are convinced that the use and further development of nuclear energy should be performed with strict adherence to the safety regulations and norms. This approach is the guiding precondition for Ukraine with its 15 operating nuclear power units

that constitute one of the largest nuclear power program in Europe.

The elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, social and economic rehabilitation of contaminated territories is the priority for the Government of Ukraine. Construction of a New Safe Confinement over the destroyed Unit 4 of the Chernobyl NPP is currently underway. This work, which we are planning to complete in 2017 and following implementation of next stages of New Safe Confinement, will allow us to transform the Shelter Object into an environmentally and ecologically safe system. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation to the states and international organizations that provided us support and assistance in overcoming the consequences of Chernobyl accident. Ukraine counts on the support of the Agency and other partners in our further endeavors.

Fukushima Daiichi accident in 2011 has resulted in widespread concern about the safety of NPPs worldwide and triggered discussions about feasibility of nuclear energy as a source of power generation. We would like to reiterate that nuclear power will continue to be an essential component of Ukraine's energy strategy in mid- and long-term perspective. It will continue to serve as a basis for sustainable development of our national economy.

Mr. President, that concludes my remarks and I wish you and the Conference every success!

Thank you!