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On the occasion of the 69th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly First Committee
Exchange with the High Representative and other High-Level Officials

New York, 16 October 2014

Since 1957, the IAEA has worked to bring the immense benefits of peaceful nuclear science and technology to its member states, in areas as diverse as industry, human health, agriculture, and water management. Nuclear techniques are being used to address development challenges such as improving childhood nutrition, improving access to electricity and increasing food security. Just this week, IAEA Director General Amano announced that the Agency will provide specialized diagnostic equipment to help Sierra Leone in its efforts to combat the ongoing Ebola outbreak. Later, this support is planned to be extended to Liberia and Guinea. In his statement to the IAEA General Conference last month, Director General Amano asked nations to recognize the important contribution of nuclear science and technology to sustainable development as they formulate the post 2015 development agenda.

Nuclear Non-proliferation
Since 1957, the IAEA has also worked hard to prevent the misuse of nuclear science and technology and the spread of nuclear weapons. By implementing safeguards, the IAEA independently verifies the correctness and completeness of the declarations made by States about their nuclear programmes. Safeguards provide credible assurances that States are fulfilling their international obligations, and also serve to detect early any misuse of nuclear material or technology, thereby alerting the world to potential proliferation. Safeguards are, therefore, a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Safeguards agreements are currently in force with 181 States, of which 173 are non-nuclear-weapon States with comprehensive safeguards agreements under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). However, twelve NNWS have yet to conclude and bring into force NPT safeguards agreements with the Agency. For these States, the IAEA cannot draw any safeguards conclusions. The Agency continues to urge these states to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements as soon as possible.

The number of States with additional protocols in force continues to rise. It now stands at 124. This is very encouraging because the additional protocol is an essential tool for the Agency to be able to provide credible assurance that there are no undeclared nuclear material and activities in a country. For this reason, the Agency encourages all States to bring additional protocols into force as soon as possible.

The global nuclear landscape continues to change. Verification challenges are growing and becoming more complex. More nuclear facilities and material are being placed under safeguards. New nuclear facilities are becoming ever more sophisticated, making the implementation of safeguards more challenging. And this global trend is expected to continue.
Safeguards implementation will need to continue to evolve to address these new challenges. Over the past 12 months, the IAEA has engaged extensively with member states on the conceptualization and development of safeguards implementation at the State-level. The State-level concept involves implementing safeguards in a manner that considers a State's nuclear and nuclear-related activities and capabilities as a whole, within the scope of the State's safeguards agreement. It does not entail the introduction of any additional rights or obligations on the part of either States or the Agency, nor does it involve any modification in the interpretation of existing rights and obligations. It is applicable to all States within the scope of each individual State's safeguards agreement.

The Agency is ready to contribute to the verification of dismantlement of nuclear weapons programmes and, upon request, international verification of nuclear arms control and disarmament agreements.

**Nuclear Security**

Let me turn to nuclear security. Responsibility for ensuring nuclear security lies with national governments. But the central role of the Agency in helping to strengthen the global nuclear security framework is widely recognized. The Agency has established internationally accepted guidance that is used as a benchmark for nuclear security. And the Agency helps States draft Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans to apply this guidance. Other services provided include expert peer review missions, specialist training and human resource development programs.

Upon request, the Agency helps countries to properly protect nuclear and other radioactive materials, as well as the nuclear facilities in which they are housed. This work covers a broad range of activities, from supplying radiation detection equipment for countries to use at ports and airports and providing specialist training, to helping protect major public events against nuclear terrorism.

Demand for these services is growing steadily. For example, the Agency provided nuclear security training to nearly 3,000 people in the year to June, an increase of 37 per cent over the previous year.

The most important area of unfinished business in nuclear security remains the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. There has been real momentum in recent years towards its entry into force, which is one of the most significant measures which States should adopt to strengthen nuclear security. All countries which have not yet done so are, therefore, encouraged to adhere to the Amendment.

The next high-level *IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security*, which will take place in December 2016, will be an important opportunity to review progress achieved and to map out the Agency’s work for the future.

I would also note the Agency actively works with other UN entities, including the Group of Experts established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and through the UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to build capacity in Member States and within the UN system to prevent terrorists and other non-state actors from accessing nuclear and radiological material, and to build preparedness and response mechanisms for dealing with radiation emergencies.

**Conclusion**

Let me conclude. The IAEA delivers concrete results and our work is valued by our Member States. We will continue to pursue our multifaceted objectives in a balanced manner in the coming years. By helping States benefit from peaceful nuclear science and technology, by exercising credible verification and by promoting effective nuclear security, the IAEA is making a tangible contribution towards to international peace and security.

Thank you.