



IRELAND

Main Committee III

Statement

at the

Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

New York, 08 August 2022

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Chair,

Congratulations on your election as chair of Main Committee III. Ireland aligns with the statements of the European Union and the Vienna Group of 10.

Ireland is committed to making progress on the three pillars of the NPT and sees the three as interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

While Ireland has chosen not to include nuclear power in its energy mix, we acknowledge the inalienable right, under Article IV of the NPT, of all States Parties to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Chair,

Ireland recognizes that nuclear and radiological technologies play an important role in areas such as medicine, industry, food and agriculture, and can contribute to a wide variety of socioeconomic and environmental benefits, particularly in developing countries. The IAEA's activities play a crucial role in supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

If countries choose to use nuclear power, then it is essential that it is used safely and securely. We continue to attach the utmost importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security standards, and we greatly appreciate the crucial role played by the IAEA in this regard.

We welcome the Ministerial Declaration agreed by consensus at the International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2020, which recognised that nuclear security contributes to international peace and security and which stressed that nuclear disarmament is critically needed. The fact that only a limited proportion of fissile material worldwide is used for civilian purposes speaks for itself and further demonstrates the clear link between nuclear security and nuclear disarmament.

Ireland appreciates the IAEA's work in promoting adherence to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. This Review Conference should encourage universalisation of the amended Convention, which will help to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack involving nuclear material, which would have catastrophic consequences.

Action 62 of the 2010 Action Plan encourages ongoing dialogue between coastal and shipping States regarding confidence-building measures concerning the maritime transport of nuclear materials, such as MOX fuel, high-level radioactive waste and irradiated nuclear fuel by sea. As an island state, this area is of particular interest to Ireland and we chaired the dialogue between coastal and shipping States in 2018 and in 2019. We are keen to maintain and support this dialogue between coastal and shipping states.

Chair,

We recall the seven Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security outlined by IAEA Director General Grossi. We recommend that this Review Conference clearly recognizes the Seven Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security regarding peaceful nuclear facilities and materials in all circumstances, including in situations of armed conflict.

Chair,

Ireland views Russia's military action against and in the vicinity of civilian nuclear installations in Ukraine as deeply concerning. We underscore that any attack or threat against peaceful nuclear facilities is a violation of the principles of the UN Charter, international law and the IAEA statute, and reiterate our call for Russia to cease all actions that compromise the safety, security and physical protection of nuclear facilities in Ukraine.

Chair,

In recent years, Ireland has consistently advocated for the equal participation of women and men across nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses. Improving gender balance in the relevant multilateral organisations, such as the IAEA, particularly at senior levels and in the technical grades, is an important component of the overall objective of strengthening the gender perspective in the nuclear area.

Ireland commends DG Grossi and the IAEA for the work to advance gender parity within the Agency during this Review Cycle, as well as its broader initiative to increase the number of women in the nuclear field through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. Ireland is pleased to have been one of the first supporters of the Fellowship fund.

Chair,

In conclusion, we wish to reiterate the interdependence of the three pillars of the NPT and emphasise that the progress made during the lifetime of the NPT in advancing peaceful uses is inextricably linked to progress in the other two pillars. Further advances in the third pillar remain dependent on a multilateral approach, under the continuing strong leadership of the IAEA, to tackling the challenges of safety, security and non-proliferation.

Thank you.