

IAEA Nuclear Security Conference 1-5 July 2013

Statement by Denmark

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Villy Søvndal

Thank you Mr President. Esteemed colleagues, Your Excellencies,

Mr President,

It is a positive fact that we today have significantly fewer nuclear weapons in the world than during The Cold War. And I welcome and urge all efforts at bringing them further down, such as announced by President Obama in Berlin two weeks ago.

But it is an absurdity that although nuclear weapons now are fewer in numbers, as a consequence of proliferation more states have nuclear weapons today than ever before. This proliferation of nuclear weapons - and the extended use of civilian nuclear power - provides the basis of a

shared fear that non-state actors and terrorist organizations might someday get hold of such weapons or of fissile materials. This is a fact. And it is not a very pleasant fact. We have gathered here today to do something about it.

A strong international security architecture is the only true guarantee for increased global security. In the nuclear field, no agency plays a more fundamental role than the International Atomic Energy Agency. Denmark supports the vital work being carried out by the IAEA and highly values its efforts to ensure transparency and credibility in the nuclear field.

As a European Union Member State, Denmark supports the statement presented by Lithuania on behalf of EU High Representative Ashton.

Mr. President,

Responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State. All States have the responsibility to establish appropriate systems and

measures to prevent, detect, deter and respond to malicious acts involving nuclear material and highly radioactive sources.

At the same time, any failure to ensure this control will have consequences far beyond state borders. We have a shared interest in ensuring a strong nuclear security system worldwide to protect ourselves against nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts involving nuclear material. The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment are central to that system and we urge the IAEA and all states to continue to promote them.

Nuclear security and safety have a common aim of protecting human health, society and the environment. The IAEA's work is central to both. The IAEA is thus ideally placed to help ensure the coordination and mutually reinforcing of nuclear safety and nuclear security initiatives, standards, recommendations and guidance.

Denmark fully supports the IAEA's advisory services and peer reviews as a crucial instrument in giving guidance tailored to each member state. We encourage all states to make use of these services. We also encourage sharing the results with other states for mutual benefit. We would welcome a commitment by states to host peer reviews regularly.

Mr. President

The IAEA needs the support of its member states to be able to do its job. Denmark is committed to working to ensure that the Nuclear Security Fund receives sufficient resources from the regular budget to step up its work to help all Member States protect themselves and each other against nuclear terrorism. At the same time, we are pleased to have been able to provide several voluntary contributions to the Fund.

This Conference comes at an important moment in the preparation of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014 to 2017. The importance of a comprehensive nuclear security infrastructure within states and the

significance of international coordination and cooperation are increasingly recognized. The IAEA's efforts are crucial and we need to be ambitious on the Agency's behalf.

Mr. President

The world will continue to rely on the IAEA for expertise and support in all its fields of activities. I wish to conclude by thanking the Director General and all his dedicated staff members for their invaluable contribution to building a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you, Mr. President.