

SOUTH AFRICA: NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR MAIN COMMITTEE II

SAFEGUARDS, NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES

Chairperson,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Safeguards contribute to mutual confidence in the peaceful nature of a State's nuclear activities and the absence of undeclared nuclear activities or material, which in turn would greatly facilitate the transfer of nuclear technology and use of nuclear energy to the benefit of developing countries. At the same time, it is essential that safeguards measures should not adversely affect the inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy as envisaged in Articles III and IV of the NPT.

Chairperson,

South Africa maintains its principled position that it is the obligation of States Parties to accept safeguards as required under Article III of the Treaty and urges all States that have yet to bring comprehensive safeguards agreements into force, to do so as soon as possible in order to achieve the universality of comprehensive safeguards.

nuclear weapons. We therefore actively participate in the discussions, consultations and decisions on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system in the IAEA policy making bodies, most recently on the so-called State Level Concept.

Welcome the IAEA Director General's assurance, as reflected in the IAEA General Conference Resolution GC(58)/RES/14, that the SLC "does not, and will not entail the introduction of any additional rights or obligations on the part of either the States or the Agency" and that the development and implementation of State-level approaches will be done in close consultation with the State concerned.

Chairperson,

South Africa recommends that the Conference reiterates that IAEA safeguards should be assessed and evaluated regularly and that decisions adopted by the IAEA policy bodies aimed at further strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of IAEA safeguards should be supported and implemented.

South Africa further recommends that the Conference reaffirms that the IAEA is the sole competent authority responsible for verifying the fulfilment of safeguards obligations assumed by States parties under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

Chairperson,

South Africa takes note that in addition to their voluntary offer agreements, the five nuclear-weapon States have Additional Protocols in force, and that the IAEA found no indication of the diversion of nuclear material to which safeguards had been applied and that nuclear material to which safeguards had been applied, remained in peaceful activities.

However, the 2010 NPT Revcon agreed on specific actions aimed at strengthening the IAEA safeguards system, including through the development of appropriate legally binding arrangements to ensure the irreversible removal of fissile material designated by each nuclear-weapon State as no longer required for military purposes.

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Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones play an important role in preventing the proliferation – both vertical and horizontal – of nuclear weapons. The establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-