

Unofficial translation

S T A T E M E N T

by Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Konstantin K. Dolgov at the plenary meeting of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly on agenda item 84: Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

October 31, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

We were glad to welcome today in the morning the IAEA Director General H.E. Mr. M. El Baradei and thank him for presenting the annual report of the Agency.

Russia, as an active member of IAEA, is satisfied with the highly professional work of the Agency, and recognizes its important and increasing role in strengthening the international nuclear weapon non-proliferation regime, and ensuring necessary level of confidence for cooperation in peaceful and secure development of nuclear power production. We fully share the high appreciation by the Nobel Prize Committee of the role of this international institution. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IAEA and its Director General H.E. Mr. M. El Baradei is a clear evidence of the global recognition of this agency's achievements.

The IAEA is a unique international institution vested with powers to assess the compliance by states with their obligations in the area of nuclear non-proliferation in the

framework of NPT. We call for further improvement of agency's verification mechanisms and development of its control functions.

Special urgency of increasing efficient international efforts in the area of non-proliferation is dictated by the threat that the weapons of mass destruction may fall into the hands of terrorists. The brutal terrorist acts, perpetrated also in Russia, underpin the need for safe guarantees to be taken so as to prevent access of terrorists to WMD, first of all by the consolidation of joint efforts towards a global system to counter new challenges and threats, in particular in the nuclear field.

These new challenges underscore the importance of finding new solutions. We are grateful for broad support to Russian proposals on drafting the UN SC resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of WMD and the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Russia is a participant in the Proliferation Security Initiative and has co-sponsored the G-8 Plan of Action in the field of non-proliferation. To a great extent these initiatives are interrelated and should contribute to a greater efficiency of global WMD non-proliferation regimes.

Mr. Chairman,

The application of the Additional Protocol to IAEA safeguards Agreements is one of the pillars of the Agency's activities, which serves as an innovative instrument for ensuring transparency of national nuclear programs. The task of making it universal is, in our view, one of the crucial tasks of the international community in the field of non-proliferation for the years to come.

Russia has provided and will provide assistance in strengthening the IAEA safeguard system, including by funding a national program of scientific and technical support to Agency's safeguard activities.

Russia respects the interest of states in developing peaceful nuclear technologies and, over a number of years have cooperated with many countries in this field. We advocate the broadest cooperation in the area of nuclear energy for development.

However, it is necessary to reliably and safely prevent the use of peaceful atom for the production of nuclear weapons. We promote such ways of nuclear power development that would provide for, as an alternative to proliferation of sensitive technologies, the programs of reliable supply of nuclear fuel on the basis of international cooperation. We give preference to multilateral formats of practical cooperation in this field. We support, in particular, the work conducted within the IAEA on this issue.

The report prepared in early 2005 by the group of Agency's experts, upon the initiative of its Director General, on multilateral approach to nuclear fuel cycle opens, in our view, new opportunities for strengthening the nuclear weapon non-proliferation regime together with the promotion of nuclear power development. We call for continued and more intensive work of the Agency in this direction.

We take note of the Agency's contributions to a research study on innovative nuclear reactors and fuel cycles conducted within the framework of the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (IAEA). We believe that this project will make it possible to work out agreed approaches to prospective nuclear technologies from the viewpoint of their economical efficiency, and environmental and non-proliferation safety and security.

We highly appreciate the progress in the area of strengthening nuclear security made over the recent years. Thanks to active involvement of IAEA substantial achievements have been made in increasing operational safety of nuclear power plants, and handling the radioactive materials, waste, and sources. This year, changes have been made to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Installations so as to extend its coverage.

We support the IAEA activities in the area of technical cooperation and assistance to developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me also to dwell on certain topical aspects of IAEA activities.

We note with satisfaction the results of the fourth round of the Six-party talks on the settlement of Korean Peninsula nuclear issue in Beijing, concluded on September 19. We are looking forward to further progress of the six-party process with an ultimate goal of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We are in favour of finding a balanced solution of this task that would ensure legitimate interests of all parties of negotiation process.

We view the resolution on Iranian nuclear program adopted last September 24 by the IAEA Board of Governors as a signal for continued and more intensive cooperation between the Agency and Iran to clarify the remaining issues. It is our understanding that IAEA potential is far from being exhausted, and allows us to keep the settlement process of Iran's issue within the Agency. We are in favour of more intensive dialogue among all interested nations on this issue. Decisions must be developed, that, on the one hand, would remove all doubts about the peaceful character of Iran's nuclear activity and, on the other, – ensure legitimate requirements of that country. Russia will cooperate further on to solve this task.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to confirm our support to the UN General Assembly draft resolution: "IAEA Report". As a co-sponsor of this draft, Russia fully shares the importance of work conducted by the Agency and is confident that it will be continued in order to strengthen international security.