



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 November 2018

# Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

**Statement by Mr Peter Horne, First Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations**

(Check against delivery)

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President

Australia commends Director-General Amano for his report of the Agency's activities and is pleased to continue its co-sponsorship of this resolution.

The report outlines what has been another productive year for the IAEA. Australia highly values the Agency's work across nuclear science and technology, safety, security, safeguards and technical cooperation.

Last year, we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Agency's establishment, and as we noted then, these themes are just as relevant and important today as there were back at the very beginning.

Looking forward, Australia welcomes the Director-General's commitment to champion gender equality in particular.

We will continue to strongly advocate and support efforts to increase the representation of women in technical areas and senior management of the Agency – particularly through the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear now established in Vienna.

President

Australia remains a strong supporter of the transfer of knowledge and expertise through the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, and is pleased to provide extra budgetary contributions to the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI). We are proud to provide PUI funds for the modernisation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Siebersdorf (the ReNuAl project).

President

Australia is firmly committed to nuclear safety and security, and this week is undergoing an Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission. This demonstrates sustained our commitment to the international peer review system and to continuous improvement in the regulation of nuclear and radiation safety. This also follows the successful completion of an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) follow-up mission held in Australia in November last year (2017).

The IAEA continues to play a key coordinating role in assisting Member States to enhance nuclear security. The global importance of nuclear security and of the IAEA's role was re-emphasised at the IAEA's successful International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016.

The 2016 conference attracted over 2 100 participants from 139 Member states, and we look forward to the next conference in 2020.

We also commend the IAEA's continued outreach on the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and call on states to make suitable preparations for the Review Conference of the Amended Convention in 2021.

President

The Australian Government remains committed to the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of North Korea.

We welcome ongoing dialogue between North Korea and each of the ROK and the US. We note North Korea's commitment to halt nuclear testing and to allow international inspections of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site and the Tongchang-ri missile site. We see these commitments as positive, but we remain committed to maintaining pressure on North Korea until it takes concrete steps towards complying with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

President

Australia thanks Jordan for presenting this resolution and look forward to contributing to the IAEA's continued success in years to come

Thank you.