



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, New York, 1 – 26 August 2022

Main Committee III

**Statement by Mr. Adam Pavlík, Head of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation
Division of the State Office for Nuclear Safety**

New York, August 8, 2022

**One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885 Second Avenue, 48th Floor, New York, NY 10017
tel.: +1 (646) 981 4001, fax: +1 (646) 981 4099, www.mzv.cz/un.newyork**

Chair,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to, however, use this opportunity to make a few remarks in our national capacity.

The Czech Republic is committed to the *NPT Action Plan*, which was adopted in 2010 and gave us a road map with concrete steps to achieve a safer world. The Czech Republic fully meets all the NPT obligations and would like to call on other States to fulfil all commitments on their part, as well. Allow me to express my sincere belief that we can attain further progress in achieving the goals of the 64-Point Action Plan from 2010, as it is our collective responsibility.

The Czech Republic will continue to promote and strengthen the *Convention on Nuclear Safety* framework and its peer review mechanism. The Czech Republic is proud to hold the Presidency of the Convention on Nuclear Safety Review Meetings. Ms Dana Drábová, the Chairperson of the State Office for Nuclear Safety, was elected by acclamation in 2018 as the President of the 8th Review Meeting and endorsed by the Contracting Parties in 2021 to continue her tenure for the Joint 8th and 9th Review Meetings to be held in 2023. Peer reviews contribute to further strengthening of nuclear safety and security, and confidence building. Our plan is to ensure a number of meaningful technical discussions; we count on States Parties cooperation and engagement to achieve this goal.

The Czech Republic was pleased to request the *IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission* in 2020. The IAEA's Advisory and other Services are invaluable instruments for improvement of national regulatory and institutional frameworks.

The *IAEA IPPAS mission* was successfully conducted in November 2021. And we are proud to share only positive experience with such an event. The *IAEA IPPAS mission* had provided us with an excellent opportunity to evaluate our new national nuclear security regime and to demonstrate the high level of protection to which nuclear facilities and nuclear materials are subject to in the Czech Republic. We aim to present our excellent results within this year, underlining our robust national nuclear security regime and confirming fully adequate level of physical protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear materials in the Czech Republic.

Having had a very positive experience with the IAEA missions ourselves, we would like to encourage other States to explore the benefits of these missions and consider requesting one, as well.

Chair,

To illustrate the Czech Republic's commitment to share best nuclear practices with other countries, I would like to inform you about the participation of my country in various activities relevant for this Review Conference. In line with our foreign policy priorities, the Czech Republic has provided voluntary financial contributions to support specific IAEA activities.

In 2020, the Czech Republic contributed 285 206 EUR to the *Technical Cooperation Programme Fund*. Under the *Technical Cooperation Programme*, the Czech Republic administrates a national project called [Strengthening Human Resources Capacity, Nuclear Knowledge, Skills Preservation, and Expertise in Relevant Fields of the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy](#). This project is dedicated to sharing best practices and capacity building of young professionals coming from various public institutions such as hospitals, universities and research institutes.

Additionally, we also made an extra-budgetary contribution of 93 995 EUR through the *IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative* for the Armenian project on *Upgrading National Nuclear Regulatory Infrastructure*.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that the Environmental Sample Analysis by Fission Track Method was developed by researchers in the Czech Republic for uranium and plutonium particles analysis. The State Office for Nuclear Safety, which is the national regulator of the Czech Republic, has acquired this method to support its verification activities. The main purpose of this method is to provide timely, accurate and precise analytical data from environmental samples collected during national safeguards inspections. At the same time, Czech laboratory using the Fission Track Method was approved to be used within the Network of Analytical Laboratories of the IAEA for uranium and plutonium particles analysis. This service will provide an important factor in drawing conclusions not just for the IAEA in the area of non-proliferation, but it will also enhance the overall capacity and capability of the Czech safeguards regime.

Finally yet importantly, in cooperation with the IAEA, the Czech Republic has organized 36 fellowship programmes for foreign experts, from which 14 were long-term internships and 22 were short-term academic visits with focus on the field of operation and safety of nuclear power plants, and nuclear waste. Some of the expert visits were organized at the State Office for Nuclear Safety, others at our nuclear facilities and research institutes. Regional Workshop on *Non-Electric Nuclear Applications: Options, Technology Readiness and Available IAEA Toolkits* was held in the Czech Republic in February 2019. In February 2020 the State Office for Nuclear Safety in cooperation with the IAEA organized an international workshop on *Small Modular Reactors Licensing*, also held in the Czech Republic.

In addition to that, the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the IAEA under the framework of the Member State Support Programme to the IAEA safeguards, participated last two years in the project called *COMPASS: Comprehensive Capacity Building Initiative for SSACs and SRAs*. This project comprises a number of outreach initiatives, technical visits and webinars in connection with implementation of safeguards in the newcomer Member States, helping them to strengthen and sustain the effectiveness and efficiency of their State Systems of Accounting for and Control of nuclear material. We believe that such assistance and services tailored to a Member State's needs also contribute to the greater efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA verification effort.

Chair,

With a global transition towards a low-carbon economy, countries are looking at different options for their energy production. Reaffirming the fact that countries cannot rely solely on renewables in the near future, we see it as a necessity for States to settle for the so-called hybrid energy systems: a combination of renewables and nuclear energy. We believe that one of key policies for achieving climate goals is to fully support peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As some countries are expressing interest in building nuclear power plants or small modular reactors, nuclear energy becomes even more crucial for curbing climate change, mitigate its consequences and monitor its impact. It is therefore necessary to ensure that embarking countries fully comply with the IAEA safety standards.

Coming back to the 2020 NPT Review Conference, we believe that the outcome should be a set of concrete, effective and consensual measures and pragmatic recommendations, as well as an actionable and realistic timetable for improving and strengthening the implementation of the Treaty. The next couple of weeks should be focused on accomplishing this goal.

Let me conclude by expressing our sincere belief that the NPT will continue to make the world a safer place. We must seize the opportunity of this Review Conference to move forward towards a situation where all the objectives of NPT can be met, be it disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation or the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

I trust that all the Parties gathered here are determined to strive for a world without nuclear weapons. To make this happen we need strong leadership during the Review Conference meetings and we call on all our colleagues to strive collaboratively towards a successful outcome of the Review Conference.

Thank you for your attention.