

Unofficial translation

Постоянное
представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций
в Нью-Йорке



Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations
in New York

STATEMENT

by Mikhail I. Uliyanov

**Acting Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation
to the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
(Cluster 3: peaceful use of nuclear energy)**

New York, May 4, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Russia consistently advocates broader access to the benefits of peaceful nuclear energy for the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and promotes international cooperation in this sphere in compliance with Article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We believe that there is no alternative to nuclear energy in the world. Today, this is well developed technology capable of addressing many modern challenges.

The world community is overcoming the psychological shock caused by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi in 2011 which prejudiced the attitude to nuclear energy. Recent IAEA data indicate a constantly increasing demand in nuclear energy. By the end of 2014, there were 438 power units operating in the world, with a total net installed capacity of 375.9 GWe. 70 more power units were under construction. This confirms that nuclear energy remains attractive for many countries and continues to play an important role in achieving global energy security and sustainable development.

Nuclear energy development is a priority for the Russian Federation. Since 1954 when the world's first nuclear power plant was put into operation in Obninsk, our country has accumulated great experience in nuclear energy development. Today, Russian nuclear industry comprises 350 plants and organizations with over 255,000 employees. This industry ensures a complete production cycle in the sphere of nuclear energy: from uranium mining to NPPs construction and electric power production, as well as a wide range of research and development activities.

At present, 33 power units are in operation in Russia; their total net installed capacity is 25.2 GWe. Nine power units of 10 GWe capacity and one floating nuclear thermal power plant "Akademik Lomonosov" of 80 MWe capacity are under construction. There are operating plants that provide with nuclear fuel not only Russian nuclear power plants, but NPPs in many countries of the world as well. The Russian Government has set the goal to increase the

share of nuclear power in its energy mix from 16 up to 25 per cent by 2030, which means opening 28 new nuclear power units by then.

In the long run, our country associates nuclear power development with the 4th generation fast-neutron reactors of closed nuclear fuel cycle (NFC). Russia is the only country in the world where a 600 MW fast-neutron reactor (BN-600) has been operating successfully for many years. We have also completed the construction of the 800 MW reactor (BN-800). We are currently carrying out its physical initiation. An experimental fast-neutron reactor based on the Russian technology is operating in China.

The Research Institute of Atomic Reactors in Dimitrovgrad is implementing a project on the construction of a new multipurpose research fast reactor (MBIR) intended to replace its only functional research fast reactor with sodium coolant BOR-60. We are planning to create an international research centre on the basis of the MBIR.

Mr. Chairman,

For many years, Russia has been providing assistance to States Parties to the NPT in developing nuclear technology, as well as constructing and operating NPPs. The first unit of the Belarusian NPP and the third unit of the Tianwan NPP in China are currently under construction, a contract was signed for the construction of the Hanhikivi-1 NPP in Finland. The documentation on the construction of the Akkuyu NPP has been elaborated and submitted to government authorities of the Republic of Turkey. In March 2014, intergovernmental agreements on cooperation on the project to expand and modernize the Paks NPP were signed with Hungary. The first NPP in Jordan will be constructed on the basis of Russian technology.

Russia attaches great importance to promoting cooperation with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the sphere of peaceful use of nuclear energy. Since 2010, all the elements of the International Uranium Enrichment Center (IUEC) in Angarsk have been implemented in cooperation

with Kazakhstan. Its creation is part of the 2006 Initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin to develop global nuclear energy infrastructure and create international centers providing the services of nuclear fuel cycle, which is aimed at controlling the spread of sensitive NFC technologies, without hindering world nuclear energy development. This initiative is the Russian contribution to the solution of the important task of ensuring reliable access to the benefits of nuclear energy for all the interested countries, with due observation of the requirements of the non-proliferation regime.

On the basis of the Russian initiative and the agreement with the IAEA, the reserve of low-enriched uranium (LEU) was established to ensure a guaranteed supply. Its volume is 120 tons of LEU with up to 5 per cent enrichment. At the end of 2010, all the necessary nuclear material to create such a reserve was deposited at storage facility in Angarsk and placed under the IAEA safeguards. Russia bears all the costs associated with the storage, maintenance, nuclear safety and security, as well as the application of the LEU-related safeguards.

We reaffirm our unwavering support for the IAEA project to establish its own LEU bank, initiated, among others, with the participation of the Russian Federation. We welcome the consent of the Republic of Kazakhstan to provide a site for the LEU bank.

Mr. Chairman,

The issues of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste are known obstacles to the widespread use of nuclear energy. This is not only a complex technological issue, but also a key aspect to consider in case of opting for nuclear energy. For many years, leading experts, including those from the IAEA, have noted that the solution to this problem is possible through the establishment of interstate, regional and global cooperation at the final stage of the nuclear fuel cycle (NFC). The decision may also be based on an NPP supplier country providing a comprehensive service package which includes not

only the construction of a station, but also the supply of nuclear fuel for it, as well as the removal of spent nuclear fuel for further handling. Russia uses this approach in cooperation with some countries.

We continue the practice of the return of spent fuel from research reactors of Russian design. The return of highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel for research reactors from third countries is carried out in cooperation with the United States and with the participation of the IAEA. In total, since the launch of the programme, 800 kg of fresh fuel and 1346 kg of exposed HEU fuel were exported from 14 countries. Russia also supports the IAEA programme aimed at reducing enrichment of nuclear fuel for research reactors to a level below 20%. Its implementation will allow reduce significantly the level of risk associated with HEU proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

The use of nuclear energy requires attention to nuclear safety. The Russian Federation is constantly working on strengthening nuclear safety at the nuclear power plants. Their stable operation proves the success of these efforts. Modern Russian nuclear reactors that are under construction meet the highest international requirements in the field of nuclear safety.

Russia participates in the main international legal mechanisms in the area of nuclear safety – the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and the Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Since 2005, Russia is a Party to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

Russian specialists actively participate in fulfillment of the Agency's Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. We are implementing a series of additional projects between the Russian Federation and the IAEA to support this Plan, as well as a number of other international initiatives on a voluntary basis aimed at

verification and ultimate confirmation of the safety of Russian nuclear technologies.

In 2014, Russia participated in a series of meetings of the Contracting Parties to international legal documents that regulate the way the nuclear safety of various types of nuclear facilities and activities is ensured. We particularly note the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, in the course of which the mechanisms of implementation of the Convention were significantly updated.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear safety of atomic energy should be improved using new technical solutions. They will ensure an optimal combination for future energy components and clear and safe prospects. In this context, priority is given to establishing sustainable nuclear power systems.

Russia is an initiator and a major sponsor of the IAEA International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) aimed at creating economically competitive, environmentally safe nuclear power systems that would reduce the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons and ensure the sustainable development of civilization. This intellectual forum improves Member States understanding of technological innovations and institutional characteristics contributing to transition to sustainable nuclear power systems. The number of countries taking part in INPRO has reached 40. We note with satisfaction the decision of the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano to turn the INPRO project into a fully operating section within the Department of Nuclear Energy starting from January 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

As a reliable partner, Russia has always fulfilled its obligations under multilateral and bilateral agreements and projects concerning peaceful use of nuclear energy and will continue to do so regardless of any political events. The intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in the field of the peaceful use of

nuclear energy and a number of agreements on specific areas of cooperation establish the necessary legal framework for this.

Russia is determined to cooperate closely with States Parties to the NPT in establishing a genuinely modern system of cooperation in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We are convinced that this system should ensure a safe development of global nuclear energy without the risk of nuclear proliferation, and be based on the IAEA safeguards and multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

