



## **IAEA Board of Governors - March 2024**

### **Agenda Item 3- Nuclear Safety: Nuclear Safety Review 2024**

#### **STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND**

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Thank you Mr Chair

Switzerland would like to thank the Director General for his report and DDG Evrard for her introductory remarks. I would like to address the following six points:

First, international peer review missions to assess nuclear safety authorities, such as IRRS missions, are an important tool in strengthening nuclear safety worldwide. Switzerland has been able to profit from such missions in the past and is currently implementing the recommendations and suggestions identified by the last mission, which took place in 2021. We encourage all Member States, in particular those with nuclear power programmes, to regularly host such missions, make its findings public and implement them in a timely manner. However, Switzerland also encourages the Agency to analyze and implement ways and means on how to adapt and further improve IRRS Missions, especially for those Member States that have already hosted more than two full scope missions in the past 10 years. Such Member States would in our view particularly benefit in the future from tailor made international peer review missions, that address current regulatory and safety related challenges and concentrate on specific topics. In this regard, Switzerland commends the Agency for having organized the IRRS Workshop on Lessons Learned from past IRRS Missions in October last year. We are looking forward to seeing the findings of this workshop implemented in the near future.

Second, the importance of the interfaces between cyber and computer security, physical protection, and safety is growing with the increasing use of digital infrastructure in the nuclear field. Switzerland welcomes the Agency's activities in strengthening the interface between nuclear safety and nuclear security throughout the past year, and is in this regard also looking forward to the ICONS 2024 conference, which will be held here in Vienna in May this year.

Third, Switzerland is honored for the privilege to assume the role as chair of the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards for the next four years. We are looking forward to assisting Member States and the Secretariat to further develop and strengthen the IAEA's Safety Standards, which provide the fundamental principles, requirements and recommendations to ensure nuclear safety globally.

Fourth, knowledge management and capacity building in the nuclear field is an increasingly important topic for all member states, and perhaps even more so for embarking countries or countries that are phasing out nuclear energy. Switzerland welcomes the Agency's efforts in strengthening these vital areas and is looking forward to the "International Conference on Nuclear Knowledge Management and Human Resources Development" that will be held in July this year.

Fifth, Switzerland's term as President of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the "Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management" will end at the end of March. It has been an honor and privilege and we believe that we were able to contribute to an effective and transparent review of the national reports, to an open sharing of international best practices, as well as endeavor to further strengthen the processes of the Joint Convention. In this regard, we are looking forward to chairing the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in March this year and to work constructively with all Contracting Parties to further improve the framework of the

Convention.

And finally, Mr Chair,

I am glad to inform you that the Switzerland has decided to join the work of the regulatory track of the IAEA's Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative NHSI and we look forward to contributing to its success.

Thank you.