

## **IAEA Board of Governors – 4 June 2024**

### **Agenda Item 7 (c)**

### **The Safeguards Implementation Report for 2023**

#### **STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND**

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Mr Chair,

We thank the Director General for his Report and DDG Aparo for the technical Briefing. I would like to highlight the following 3 points:

First, the IAEA's comprehensive safeguards and verification activities play a crucial role in the implementation of the NPT. and contribute to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons. It is essential to ensure that the IAEA has the necessary political, technical and financial support to effectively meet its responsibility and we therefor call on all State Parties to further develop a robust, flexible, adaptive and cost-effective technology base for advanced safeguards.

Second, we take note of the progress made during the last year in the number of comprehensive safeguards agreements (CSAs) and additional protocols (APs) entering into force. We welcome the fact that in 2023 the Agency was able to draw the broader conclusions for a total number to 74 states. We consider a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with an Additional Protocol in force as the "gold standard" in safeguards and encourage Member States that have not yet done so to conclude and ratify an Additional Protocol. We fully support the Agency's call on the remaining 19 States with an SQP based on the

original standard text to amend or rescind such SQPs without delay as the Agency may no longer be able to draw a safeguards conclusion for States with the original SQP unless they take immediate action to remedy the situation.

Lastly, we welcome the fact that the Agency forged new partnerships in support of Agency safeguards and established two new MSSPs, namely with Norway and with the United Arab Emirates, thus bringing the total number of MSSPs to 24. This contributes to the strength and geographic representation of Member States support to Agency safeguards. We continue, in close cooperation with the Agency's MSSP, to identify and evaluate emerging technologies that could improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of safeguards instrumentation. During the last year a robotized Cherenkov viewing device (RCVD) and the latest version of the neXt Generation Cherenkov Viewing Device (XCVD) underwent simultaneous testing over the course of several days at a Swiss nuclear facility, thanks to the Swiss MSSP.

With these remarks, Mister Chair, Switzerland takes note of the Safeguards Implementation Report 2023.

Thank you.