

**IAEA Regional Seminar on the Protocol Additional
to Nuclear Safeguards Agreements
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Opening remarks

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Mr. Minister, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At the start of this regional seminar I would like to express my sincere appreciation on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Government of Peru for hosting what should be a fruitful Seminar here in Lima.

En nombre del Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica, quisiera expresar mi gratitud al Sr. García Sayán y al Gobierno de Perú. También quisiera enfatizar el apoyo dado a este Seminario por parte de OPANAL y el Centro Regional de las Naciones Unidas para la Paz, el Desarme, y el Desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe.

Introduction of IAEA

Some of you, I know, are thoroughly familiar with the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency, others less so. I would therefore like to briefly introduce to you the main objectives and some of the primary activities of the Agency. The work of the IAEA, the international authority on nuclear science and technology, rests on three pillars: technology, safety, and verification. This Seminar will focus on the IAEA's verification mandate, on its safeguards system, and on how the Additional Protocol will make that system more effective and efficient. Over the course of the next several days, my colleagues and I will go into more detail specific to safeguards and the Additional Protocol. I would like now, however, to take a few minutes to briefly touch on the Agency's activities, relevant to nuclear technology and safety, particularly for States here in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ARCAL

Since its inception in 1957, the IAEA has taken an active role in promoting the sustainable application of nuclear science and technology, particularly to countries in the developing world. In addition to the obvious uses for power generation, nuclear science and technology are also applied to areas such as health, food security, pollution control, and water resource management. Many of you will be familiar with ARCAL, the Regional Co-operative Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, 19 countries participate in the ARCAL programme (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela)

There are over 40 ARCAL projects currently being implemented in a variety of applications, including plant nutrition and soil-water management; the use of radioisotopes to improve livestock breeding; and the diagnosis of Hepatitis C. In addition, ARCAL has facilitated the training of hundreds of scientists in the region and the establishment of a regional information network.

Safety

As the Agency is committed to ensuring the reliable and safe use of nuclear technologies, an integral component of our Technical Cooperation activities is the variety of projects to strengthen States' nuclear safety and security systems. In fact more than a quarter of our TC resources are devoted to safety related activities. One of the Latin American projects is aimed at improving national capabilities for the safe operation of nuclear reactors. This includes efforts to bring existing reactors into conformity with Agency safety standards, as well as helping ensure the design of safe new reactors. Other Nuclear Safety programmes underway in Latin America and the Caribbean are focussed on developing an effective national radiation protection and waste safety infrastructure. The Agency is currently implementing projects in the region to improve radiation protection in medicine and to help with the organization of medical response and treatment in cases of accidental overexposure.

The Agency's Technical Cooperation and Safety activities are too numerous to sufficiently address in a brief introduction. Suffice it to say that the promotion of safe and responsible applications of nuclear technologies remains one of the primary objectives of the IAEA, and that the Agency has been particularly active in this regard in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Purpose of the Seminar

That brings me to the third pillar of the IAEA: verification, the pillar on which this Seminar rests. Strength-

ening its safeguards system is one of the highest priorities of the Agency – and in fact a high priority of the international community. Just a few days ago, on 29 November, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 56/24N: *A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons*, which welcomes a symposium on strengthening safeguards held in June in Tokyo, and expresses the hope that similar symposiums can be held in the future. This seminar is the first in response to that call of the General Assembly, and other seminars will follow. It was Japan, which introduced that resolution in New York, and in this context I would like to express the gratitude of the Agency for a Japanese financial contribution to the Agency for organising this and similar seminars.

In the Latin American region, in which nearly all States have concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency, the seminar will focus on Protocols Additional to Safeguards Agreements, based on the 1997 Model Additional Protocol. The goal of the Seminar is in particular to provide substantial and specific information on the Additional Protocol and to effectively address any question and concern you may have, in the hope and expectation that the knowledge gained will be used domestically to promote the adoption - or as the case may be, the implementation - of the Additional Protocol.

Over the course of the next three days, the lecturers - both IAEA staff and other speakers - plan to address a variety of issues that relate to nuclear non-proliferation objectives and how the conclusion of an Additional Protocol will contribute to these objectives. Today's session will focus mainly on setting the stage regionally. Tomorrow, some of my colleagues from the Agency will introduce the different dimensions of the strengthened safeguards system. This will be put into context for States with safeguarded nuclear facilities, and for those with little or no nuclear activities. The lectures will conclude on Thursday with presentations on practical implementation issues and on developments we may expect in the future, putting non-proliferation in a perspective of nuclear disarmament. I count on your active participation. Only a dialogue can bring us forward.

In addition to the scheduled lectures, my IAEA colleagues and I will be available throughout the course of the Seminar for bilateral consultations to discuss any country-specific concerns or questions. I strongly encourage all participants to speak with us so that we can provide you with the most relevant information particular to your concerns. Likewise, we will actively be seeking your individual questions and comments in this regard.

I would like to conclude by thanking again the Foreign Ministry, and you Mr. Minister personally, for hosting this Seminar and for the example that Peru has given to the region by being the first country that brought its Additional Protocol into force.