

DRAFT SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENTS TO THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS: 7-11
MARCH 2011

AGENDA ITEM 4: NUCLEAR VERIFICATION

(D) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT IN THE SYRIAN
ARAB REPUBLIC

Chairperson,

South Africa thanks the Director General for the update on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic, as contained in document GOV/2011/8, as well as the Secretariat's technical briefing on the report. My delegation associates itself with the views expressed in the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Chairperson,

My delegation takes note of the update provided by the Director General, including the information shared by Syria under the agreed plan of action and strongly encourages Syria to continue such co-operation in order to facilitate the Agency to draw its safeguards conclusion and to provide all clarifications requested on the unresolved safeguards implementation issues without further delay.

Despite requests from the Agency, we regret that Israel has not provided relevant information to the Agency. Presumably, Israel had relevant information which resulted in it taking unilateral action to destroy the facility and that information should at least be shared with the Agency in order to enable it to discharge its verification mandate.

South Africa welcomes recent developments in relation to the agreed plan of action and the responses provided by Syria on the MNSR. My delegation further welcomes the recent letter by Syria's Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding continued co-operation with the Agency to resolve all outstanding technical issues and the approved visit to Homs as a positive development.

Chairperson,

We urge Syria to implement the Additional Protocol which, though a voluntary measure, can serve as an important confidence building measure.

I thank you.