



STATEMENT BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON**

AT THE

**OPENING OF THE PLENARY DEBATE ON
THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK
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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure this morning to extend a warm welcome to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Nobel Laureate, Dr Mohamed Elbaradei.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I extend our sincere and heartfelt congratulations to you and, through you, to the International Atomic Energy Agency on being awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize for your efforts, and I quote the Norwegian Nobel Committee: “to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way”. It is a well-deserved recognition of your work at a crucial time for the future of disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Over the years since its foundation in 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency and its leadership have shown that through global cooperation we can help to build a safer world. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IAEA and its Director-General Dr Elbaradei is thus a message of encouragement for all of us in the United Nations family. It strengthens us in our belief that multilateralism is necessary in dealing with global threats and challenges – be it chronic poverty, global disease outbreaks, natural disasters, climate change, terrorism or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The International Atomic Energy Agency was established to promote the peaceful applications of atomic energy for the benefit of humanity while, simultaneously, guarding against the spread of its use for military

purposes. Adapting to new circumstances and needs over time, this mandate has evolved into promoting safeguards and verification, as well as safety and security, and peaceful application of nuclear science and technology. Since 2001, it has given emphasis also to the protection against nuclear terrorism and attacks on nuclear facilities.

In a world of much insecurity and mistrust, the International Atomic Energy Agency in recent years has been at the forefront of international efforts to adapt the nuclear non-proliferation regime to the new challenges of preventing a nuclear black market to emerge and tackling the proliferation risks related to the increasing demand for nuclear technology including, in particular, the nuclear fuel cycle. The work of the Agency also in these fields is an important contribution to making the world more safe and secure for all.

With this introduction, I invite the Director General of IAEA, Dr Mohamed Elbaradei, to the podium to introduce the annual report of the Agency.