

- Thank you. I am pleased to be here at this important event.
- As you might be aware of Sweden has contributed to a project on the integrated and sustainable management of shared aquifer systems and basins of the Sahel region. Henceforth I will just say the Sahel-project. I will in my presentation detail Sweden's reasoning for contributing to this project and at the end shortly outline a couple of thoughts in furthering promotion of IAEA:s work in nuclear applications.
- Sweden is keen to promote the broad range of work undertaken by the IAEA. Nuclear applications has a tendency to not be in the media spotlight as much as IAEA:s work in for instance safeguards. There is, however, more to the IAEA than being a nuclear watchdog. Sweden, very much through my UN-Mission, has for some time worked to promote an understanding of the broad range of work that the IAEA undertakes.
- As you know, the Sahel region extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. The width varies from a few hundred kilometers to a thousand kilometers, with a total area of almost seven times that of Sweden, or roughly 3 million square kilometers. Several droughts have occurred in this region over the past half century, tragically resulting in more than a million deaths. The Sahel-project aims amongst others to use isotope technology to better understand existing water resources in the region, by analyzing the flow of the water, the quality of the water and to what extent the water aquifers are refilled inbetween droughts.
- Sweden's contribution to Sahel was made public shortly after Sweden became a member of the IAEA Board of Governors in September 2011. After an information gathering phase, and in collaboration with colleagues at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Sweden, the Swedish UN Mission were able to present a recommendation for the support of this important project. This information was gathered through extensive communication with the IAEA but also with other diplomatic missions, for instance the US and Japanese missions to the UN. The Sahel-project was approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in June 2012.
- The first contribution of about 330 000 euro was followed up a couple of years later by a second contribution of about 220 000 euro for the same project. This is a testimony to 1) our enduring will to continue to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in general, and, in this case, the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, which complements the IAEA:s Technical Cooperation Program 2) our belief in the work of the IAEA as regards nuclear applications, and 3) our resolve to contribute to development in an important region.
- As for the first point, an integral aspect of the non-proliferation treaty, article 4, is the promotion and usage of nuclear technology for peaceful uses. Sweden's contribution to the Sahel-project should also be seen in this light; as a contribution to the Sweden's already strong engagement what concerns non-proliferation, in this case the third pillar of the NPT-treaty. The application of nuclear technology for peaceful uses is for many members of the IAEA a vital part of the work that the IAEA

performs. Strengthening the peaceful uses of nuclear technology works to strengthen the NPT.

- As for the second point, we recognize that IAEA has expertise and resources that are not commonly found, and as a UN body it has the global reach and recognition.
- As for the third point, the Sahel-project, and water management in general, is in line with both Swedish and IAEA:s work to contribute to the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **Further thoughts on promoting the broad range of IAEA work**

1. An important aspect is the understanding of the broad range of work that the IAEA performs. This is a multifaceted work. As a UN Mission, we are keen to promote to the general public of IAEA:s broad range of expertise, which has been done for instance through the embassy's participation in seminars in Sweden and the publication of an article in a Swedish journal where the Nuclear Application part of the IAEA:s work is highlighted. As a small example, in March a Swedish UN Mission staff member will present the broad work of the IAEA at a public event in Sweden.
2. Sweden is a major power in the development aid it provides annually. However, as a UN Mission and together with our closest colleagues in Stockholm, we must remain active in explaining the virtues of nuclear applications and the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program to those who usually don't come into contact with the work of the IAEA in any greater detail. Shortly put, there will obviously be competition between various actors in Sweden for channeling some of that development aid. I have already listed many virtues with the Sahel-project that in all, at the time, fit well with the Government's plans for development and non-proliferation.
3. There is also the work that the IAEA can do itself, by actively seeking cooperation with relevant organisations in member states. I believe this was one of the conclusions drawn in the report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the TC-program a couple of years back, with a recommendation to the IAEA Secretariat to commence a process to better reach out to various partners in member states.