

**Statement by the Albanian Delegation
to the 58th Session of the General Conference of the IAEA**

**As delivered by Ambassador Spiro KOCI
Resident Representative of Albania to the IAEA**

Vienna, 24 September 2014

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you upon your election as President of the 58th Session of the IAEA General Conference, as well as other elected officials. I am confident that under your guidance the Conference will accomplish its objectives successfully. I assure you of Albania's full support.

My delegation aligned itself with the EU statement. Before making some additional remarks on a national capacity, I join others in welcoming the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and the Republic of Vanuatu, as the newest IAEA member states.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Since last September, the Secretariat and Member States have made considerable progress in the implementation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The recommendations of the International Experts' Meeting on Radiation Protection after the Fukushima Daiichi Accident held in February 2014 are promoting confidence and understanding. The preparation of the IAEA Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident is also progressing well.

Albania participated for the first time at the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), which was held from 24 March to 4 April 2014, and to the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, held from 12 to 13 May 2014. As a result of these activities, there is consensus that more needs to be done to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide. We are determined to fully cooperate with the Agency to complete our obligations in due time.

Mr. President,

We support the Nuclear Security Plan 2014–2017 through which a broad range of services to the Member States will be provided. We look forward to its implementation and are ready to accomplish our part.

Albania gives high importance to the international cooperation in the field of nuclear security to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Albania has ratified the Amendments to the CPPNM and fully supports Director General's call for other Member States to do so as soon as possible. This is a very important legal instrument to boost international cooperation in strengthening nuclear security.

In April, Albania submitted the National Report on Security of Radioactive Sources prepared by the Radiation Protection Office. The Report presents the status of management practices and regulatory inspections for the security of sealed radioactive sources. We are completing the review and approval of the Albania's Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP). This will help in implementing actions without delay. The IAEA will be assisting Albania with the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) to strengthening the national nuclear security regime. In this context, an IPPAS Mission in Albania would be most welcomed.

Some of Albania's borders crossing points are supplied with equipment for inspection of nuclear and radioactive materials, while others are in the process of creating the proper infrastructure. In this regard, the IAEA has been implementing a pilot project in Albania to improve the radioactive monitoring in the country. The IAEA project on "Establishment of a framework and a pilot deployment of equipment to secure radioactive material out of state regulatory control in the Republic of Albania" is in process of implementation. We are fully committed to complete this project with success.

Distinguished delegates,

We congratulate the Agency for its crucial work and contribution to international peace and security through its credible verification activities. A strengthened verification regime is a benefit for all and all should contribute towards this end.

Albania lends its full support to the Director General for the activities aiming at improving the Agency's ability to detect undeclared nuclear material and activities. It is essential that effectiveness of safeguards be maintained.

Albania agrees with the IAEA approach to the state-level concept, and supports efforts by the Secretariat to improve the efficiency of safeguards implementation while strengthening its effectiveness. We commend the IAEA Secretariat for the organization of technical meetings on the State-level concept (SLC) and for the comprehensive explanations provided.

Albania has a Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement (CSA) and an Additional Protocol (AP) in force. We echo Director General's call that all Member States should conclude the CSA and the AP. We are encouraged by increasing number of AP in force, now at 124. We expect that adherence to the Additional Protocol will become universal soon.

The Agency's continued focus and professional and unbiased work on major verification issues regarding Iran, the DPRK and Syria enjoy our full support. While sharing the concerns expressed in the EU Statement, we join its calls addressed to them from this Conference to fully and promptly cooperate with the IAEA to resolve all the outstanding issues.

The Albanian Government considers the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East and other regions as a positive step towards achieving global nuclear disarmament. We still hope that the International Conference on Free of nuclear weapon Middle East Zone will be organized soon.

Mr. President,

We highly appreciate and pay great attention to the Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, for its essential role in promoting peaceful use of nuclear technology and providing assistance to Member States.

Albania is proud of its excellent cooperation with the Agency in successfully implementing its National Technical Cooperation Programme. Its assistance has been in line with the national development priorities of the country and will continue to be so. We have benefitted from it in many directions, in environment, agriculture and in particular in human health.

Fighting cancer stands high on the priority list of the Albanian Government. Albania is a Model Demonstration Site for the Agency's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and is fully committed to further strengthening cancer control activities in the country. Albania highly appreciates the ongoing assistance provided by the Agency through its technical cooperation programme to support the successful implementation of its "National Cancer Control Programme".

Over the years, the IAEA's technical cooperation programme has triggered a significant improvement of diagnostic and therapeutic cancer services and, in parallel, has supported the establishment of the necessary radiation safety infrastructure. The Radiotherapy Service of the Oncology Department and the Service of Nuclear Medicine at the University Hospital Centre "Mother Teresa" in Tirana were developed in close cooperation with the Agency and are fully operational. The University Hospital's radiation protection infrastructure is consistent with IAEA Safety Standards, which is essential for the effective, efficient and safe treatment of patients. We are pleased that one of the TC projects - "Stronger together: The IAEA and UN partners work with Albania to fight cancer" - has been selected for this year's General Conference success story.

Albania's efforts now focus on further enhancing comprehensive and sustainable cancer control, with emphasis on children and women. Nuclear Medicine services will be expanding activities for patients, as well as for education of students and medical doctors, while radiotherapy services will be strengthened soon with the installation of a new electron beam accelerator. The IAEA assistance to introduce and consolidate linear accelerator technology in oncology is highly required.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to the Agency for its contribution to these achievements and its engagement for the future.

By way of concluding, Mr. President, I wish again to express the full support of the Albanian Government to the Agency in the realization of its statutory functions under the excellent guidance of its Director General.

Thank You Mr. President.