

The 58<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference  
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**Statement by**  
**the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Croatia,**  
*H.E. Dubravka Šimonović, Permanent Representative to the Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Croatia to the OESCE, UN and International Organizations in Vienna*

Mister President,

At the outset, on behalf of Croatian delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you Mr. President on your election as President of this 58<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are convinced that under your guidance this Conference will accomplish its work successfully and I can assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Croatian delegation.

Allow me to extend our appreciation to the IAEA Director General, Mr. Amano and the Secretariat for their dedicated and professional work that has been accomplished since the last General Conference.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the applications for membership by the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu.

The Republic of Croatia fully aligns itself with the EU statement. However, I would like to use this opportunity to say a few words in my national capacity.

Mister President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The IAEA's safeguards are a key element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the Agency, along with the Member States, should work hard to further strengthen the IAEA safeguards system.

Croatia implements the system of integrated safeguards and all nuclear material is used exclusively for peaceful activities. Besides regular reporting on the application of safeguards to the International Atomic Energy Agency, as a new EU Member, Croatia is reporting to the European Atomic Energy Community as well.

As a Party to all the major international treaties and conventions relating to nuclear safety and security, Croatia is fully committed to their implementation.

In that context, Croatia actively participated in the Sixth Review Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which was held in 2014. Also, we have already started preparations to take an active part in the Review Meeting of the Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, which will be held in 2015. The new national Strategy for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management was prepared and sent to the Croatian Parliament for adoption. In this Strategy, Croatia is taking into account requirements set out in the Joint Convention as well as in the Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

Furthermore, Croatia attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and security. In 2014, Croatia organized bilateral meetings with Slovenia and Hungary regarding the implementation of the Agreement Between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia on the Early Exchange of Information in the Event of a Radiological Emergency and the Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on the Early Exchange of Information in the Event of a Radiological Emergency respectively.

Mister President,

Croatia highly values the Agency's work on the Peaceful Application of Nuclear Technology in participating member states. In this respect, we are glad to announce that the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia will be the host of the IAEA Integrated mission of PACT next week, for the assessment of the national cancer control programme. In the same context, it is worth mentioning that the State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety, as the regulatory body for radiological and nuclear safety and security, is preparing to host the IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in 2015.

The most important aspect of successful cooperation between Croatia and the Agency is within the framework of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme, at the national and regional level.

For current biennial project cycle 2014/2015, four national Technical Cooperation projects have been implemented. For the next biennial project cycle 2016/2017, four national and two regional project designs submitted by Croatia, have been approved and will be financed jointly by IAEA and Croatia. Croatia revised the Country Programme Framework for setting priorities of technical cooperation with the Agency, which is expected to be signed until the end of this year.

Mister President,

Croatia congratulates Director General Mr. Amano on his efforts to improve gender balance within the Agency that resulted with an increased representation of senior level women in the Agency over the last five years. There is still work to be done to further improve gender balance and to incorporate gender perspective in the work of the Agency and especially in its technical cooperation projects where appropriate.

In conclusion, Mister President let me stress once more that Croatia fully supports the work of the Agency and call for all Member States to approve the proposed budget for 2015.

Thank you.