



G R E E C E

**Statement by Ambassador Chryssoula Aliferi
Resident Representative of Greece to the IAEA
58th General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna, September 22-26, 2014**

Mr President,

On behalf of Greece I would like to convey to you our sincere congratulations on your election to the important office of President of the 58th General Conference of the IAEA and to assure you of our full support.

As a member of the European Union, we fully associate ourselves with the statement delivered on Monday by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Italy, which holds the current Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In this statement I will confine myself to some issues of particular importance to Greece.

Mr. President,

A corner stone of Greece's policy is respect for International Law and the United Nations system as a whole.

In this framework and on the occasion of the 58th IAEA General Conference, my Government wishes to reiterate its highest appreciation and continuous support for the mission of the IAEA. We also express our gratitude to the Director General Mr. Amano, the heads of Departments and the Secretariat for their competent, dedicated and objective work.

Allow me also to join other Delegations in welcoming, as new members of the Agency, the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu.

Mr. President,

Nuclear option is a national sovereign choice. Greece is a non-nuclear country and nuclear power is not part of our national energy mix. However, we acknowledge all states' legitimate right to peaceful nuclear energy, provided they fully adhere to and respect the international non-proliferation regime, safeguards Agreements and IAEA safety standards and security architecture.

Greece adheres to all relevant IAEA Agreements and fully supports all the Agency's relevant projects. Among other, we signed, ratified and implement in our national legislation the Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

The Amendment of the European Union Nuclear Safety Directive was a priority issue for the Greek Atomic Energy Commission during the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first semester of 2014. Indeed, the new European Directive on the Nuclear Safety (2014/87/Euratom) was agreed upon this summer.

Greece participated in the *Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety* held at the IAEA's Headquarters in March-April 2014 and intends to participate in the *Diplomatic Conference* in February 2015.

We are confident that the highly important lessons to be learned from the Fukushima Daiichi report, expected by the end of this year, will lead to further activities in the IAEA Nuclear Safety Plan in order to meet similar risks worldwide in the future.

Mr. President,

We strongly believe in the universality of the **NPT** and urge all states that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states.

Greece also intends to participate to the *3rd International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons* to be hosted by Austria in Vienna, this coming December. We consider this Conference as part of the efforts towards strengthening the disarmament and non proliferation regime, in line with the Agency's statutory mandate and to the interest of humanity.

We regret that another Conference has not been convened yet, the Conference on a **Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons** and all other weapons of mass destruction. We are confident, however, that the able Facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland will be successful in his mission, building on the humble progress that has been achieved so far. We encourage all parties to show political will and enhance their efforts towards convening the Conference and contributing to its success.

Greece believes that the application of comprehensive **IAEA Safeguards** to all nuclear material and activities in the Middle East and other regions will create confidence among all states, promoting peace, security and prosperity for all.

We recognize the paramount importance of the Agency's **Nuclear Verification** work in Iran, Syria and, hopefully soon again, in the DPRK, to the efforts of the international community to reach a peaceful solution to the relevant outstanding issues.

Greece welcomes the progress achieved so far in the cooperation between the IAEA and the **Islamic Republic of Iran**. We call upon Iran to demonstrate full cooperation with the Agency in order to resolve vital outstanding issues and build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. We encourage all parties to the parallel track of the prolonged EU3+3 and Iran negotiations to continue and further enhance their efforts towards achieving a comprehensive peaceful solution.

We are strongly concerned by the proliferation activities of the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, as well as the defiance it demonstrates towards its international obligations. We urge the DPRK to abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Greece supports the Agency's efforts to develop and implement the **State Level Concept** and welcomes the Agency's Supplementary Report.

Mr. President,

On a **bilateral basis**, under Agreements and Arrangements between the IAEA and the Greek Government in the fields of **Nuclear Safety and Security**, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission was rendered *Regional Training Centre in Europe for Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety* as well as *Regional Training Centre in Europe for Nuclear Security*.

Under the bilateral Agreement on Nuclear Safety, we are looking forward to welcoming about 20 participants from regional countries to a six months *Post Graduate Course on Radiation Protection and Safety of Radioactive Sources* to be held in Athens starting in October 2014.

Under the same Agreement, the Greek Government agreed with the IAEA earlier this year to host in Athens, the first *IAEA Workshop on Developing Effective Compliance Assurance Regime for the Transport of Radioactive Material in Mediterranean Coastal States and Associated Shipping States*, in February 2015.

Under the bilateral Agreement on Nuclear Security Greece continues to provide the IAEA with experts participating in consultancy and technical meetings, in international missions and training courses and to host fellowships and regional training courses. We also contribute to the development of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series' documents and fundamentals, through regular participation of a high level Greek expert in the *IAEA Nuclear Security Guidance Committee*.

Under the same Agreement, Greece will host, this coming December, the *Regional Training Course on Threat Assessment and Risk Informed Approach for Nuclear and other Radioactive Material out of Regulatory Control*.

Ten years after the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, we are proud to recall that current fundamental concepts on Nuclear Security were incepted and developed through practical experience gained during these Games. They were indeed the first Major Public Event covered by a comprehensive Nuclear Security Plan under an extensive cooperation project between the IAEA and Greece. Today we have a wide network of radiation detection portals and other equipment at the main border and entries. We are pleased to share the experience gained with other countries and the IAEA.

Greece is honoured by the Director General's decision to invite a renowned Greek expert to serve as member of *AdSec*, the DG's advisory group on Nuclear Security, for the three years period 2013-2015.

Recognizing the importance of strengthening **international cooperation**, Greece hosted the *Nuclear Detection Working Group of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism*, in Athens, in October 2013. In November 2014, jointly with the U.S. Department of Energy, we will co-host *an international Workshop on Second Line of Defence*, in Athens, with large participation from African countries, the European Commission and the IAEA.

Concluding, Mr President,

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Agency to increase Member States' capabilities in the development and application of **Nuclear Sciences and Technology**, in order to promote scientific, technological and economic development.

Greece also highly appreciates the role of the **Technical Cooperation** as a primary mechanism to support Member States particularly in strengthening safety and security in all aspects of the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Greek scientists actively assist IAEA's TC activities, through participation in expert missions, scientific visits and hosting fellowships in our laboratories.

The Greek Government would like to reiterate its strong support to the important mission of the IAEA and to express Greece's commitment to continue its active cooperation with the Agency.-

Thank You