

**58th General Conference of the IAEA**

**Statement**

**The Republic of Latvia**

**Mr Mārcis Slavinskis, Director of the Radiation Safety Centre of  
the Republic of Latvia,  
Vienna, Austria, 22-26 September 2014**

Mr President, Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by complementing the Director General and the Secretariat for their professional work and devotion. And let me thank you, Mr President, for taking up this important and demanding task to chair the General Conference this year. I look forward to working under your guidance.

Let me also take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate our new Member States of the Agency.

Mr President,

Latvia fully adheres to the statement of the European Union. In addition, I would like to emphasize several issues, which Latvia considers as being important not only to our country but to every Member State.

Latvia appreciates activities of International Atomic Energy Agency in providing Member States with impartial and objective advice putting the appropriate legal and regulatory framework in place and how to ensure the highest standards of safety, security and safeguards. I would like to commend the International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Cooperation Department for their support to the Member States.

Mr President,

Latvia has submitted two national projects for next planning cycle 2016-2017, where main effort will be on education, training and public society informing in radiation and nuclear matters. This is outcome from consultation process with wide range stakeholders and institutions, which stressed interest in Technical cooperation projects in the field of capacity raising, training, medicine and law enforcement. Future Latvia's participation in regional projects will allow exchange expertise among radiation and nuclear experts from other Member States. Latvia is going to implement scientific and fellowship contribution in the field of medical radiology. In cooperation with other Member States and the International Atomic Energy Agency, Latvia is willing to step by step continue to participate in training and education activities in order to build our national capacity. Latvia will also continue its cooperation with the Technical Cooperation Department in order to improve and

strengthen our national capabilities in radiation safety and nuclear security.

Mr President,

I would like to use this opportunity to address also the issue of radioactive waste management. The new Europe-wide radioactive waste and spent fuel management directive has been adopted in 2011, which sets up a legal framework based on already-acknowledged safety principles. This directive emphasizes the importance the European Union attaches to the issue of radioactive waste management. Latvia is developing new National Radioactive Waste Management Strategy that will contribute to the improvement of the radioactive waste management infrastructure. In this process Latvia is closely following the International Atomic Energy Agency's recommendations and safety principles.

Mr. President,

The international safeguard system of the Agency is an essential part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. In this regard Latvia strongly supports Agency's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve efficiency of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard system and call on all countries to conclude the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocol as

the world-wide standard for verifying compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. President,

Latvia strives to maintain the highest standards in supervision of the activities involving the use of ionizing radiation. It is important to mention that Latvia continuously improves and monitors the radiation protection infrastructure in order to achieve a full protection of the public health and safety. Latvia continues to promote a high nuclear safety culture among operators in order to facilitate their awareness regarding responsibility for possible risks of the use of sources of ionizing radiation.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Latvia's strong support to the International Atomic Energy Agency for its tremendous efforts in promoting peaceful usage of nuclear energy.

I wish every success to this conference.

Thank you Mr. President!