



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

STATEMENT

**BY H.E. KIRE ILIOSKI, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND
PLENIPOTENTIARY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE, UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS**

**TO THE 58th SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE
Vienna, 22 - 26 September, 2014**

Mr. President, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honor, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, to address the 58th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Please allow me to extend my sincere congratulation on your election Mr. President to this high office. Wishing you every success in accomplishing of your responsible task, I would like to assure you of the full support of the Macedonian Delegation.

I want to express appreciation to the Director General H.E. Mr.Yukiya Amano, for his so far excellent leadership of the Agency. I am convinced that his experience will help the Agency to tackle the challenges of the future and I would like to assure Mr. Amano of the Macedonian full support.

I take this opportunity to express also our pleasure that Republic of Macedonia will become a member to the Board of Governors for the period September 2014-2016.

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome the membership of Union of the Comoros, Republic of Djibouti, Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu as new member states of the Agency.

The Republic of Macedonia fully associates itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Hence, I shall focus to a few issues of particular national interest.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia has joined all crucial instruments in order to be in line with the international efforts to strengthen the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, as well as the non-proliferation regime. Great attention must be given to the threat of nuclear terrorism and other misuses of nuclear materials. However, to achieve high level of nuclear security, strong commitment of all countries and their close cooperation is indispensable. We welcome any further steps undertaken by those member States which have not yet ratified these documents to do so in near future. What is more important, efforts to secure negotiated peaceful solution to the urgent problems need to be pursued consistently.

During the last decade, strongly oriented towards carrying out the process of integration into the European Union, the Republic of Macedonia has developed and implemented a wide range of measures to strengthen the nuclear regulatory framework and infrastructure. Effective instruments to protect its border against illicit trafficking with radioactive and nuclear materials have been put in place. We shall continue in building capacities for further improvement of physical protection of nuclear applications, border control management and the regulatory infrastructure.

The cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection between the Republic of Macedonia and the European Commission is provided by the article 103 of the Agreement for Stabilization and Association (ASA). The area of radiation and nuclear safety is regulated by the Law on Ionizing Radiation Protection and nuclear safety promulgated in 2002, an additionally amended in 2007 in order to be in line with the International Basic Safety Standards, Code of conduct, its supplementary Guidance of import and export, as well as in line with the European Directives. As a member state of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a Party to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and a candidate European Union country, the Republic of Macedonia is committed to

manage radioactive waste in a safe, secure and sustainable manner in accordance with internationally recognized principles related to nuclear and radiation safety and security.

The Radiation Safety Directorate was established in 2002 as an independent regulatory body and with assistance from the Agency has made a significant progress in building the national capacities for effective radiation protection and nuclear safety. During the previous years, the Radiation Safety Directorate, adopted several rulebooks harmonized with the EU legislation, achieving further harmonization of the national legislation in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection. In this line the Strategic Plan 2014-2016 of the Radiation Safety Directorate is adopted. The adoption of this strategic plan represents fifth cycle of strategic planning by the Directorate, in which are presented its directions and objectives that are based on the strategic priorities of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union and NATO.

Mr. President,

The priority sectors for nuclear development in the State had been tailored to highlight sectors where the IAEA's TC activities in the country can contribute within development priorities. The national development priorities and activities relevant to the Agency's TC Programme have been revised accordingly, taking into account the increased efforts by the country to achieve compliance with relevant requirements for EU membership and relevant international development assistance, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Government has already stated in its Report on the MDGs that "the integration in the European Union is the basic driving force behind the reforms in the state institutions and the promotion of a modern, democratic and market-oriented society in which the principles for basic human freedoms and ethnic diversity are respected".

I take this opportunity to express appreciation for the Agency's assistance in the implementation of our National Technical Co-operation Program. The envisioned Country Programme Framework will be implemented both via national and regional TC projects and shall be driven by the progress of existing programmes and plans addressing the priority sectors of development. Macedonia strongly supports strengthening of the IAEA

technical assistance which is indispensable, primarily for developing countries. The IAEA expertise, training, education, and providing the necessary equipment, are crucial in accomplishing the goals set in nuclear safeguards, safety and security, regulatory infrastructure, radiation medicine and diagnostics, agriculture and many other fields.

The ongoing projects in the project cycle 2014-2015 are in full compliance with our new Country Programme Framework for the period 2013-2017. I avail myself of the opportunity to express our appreciation for the overall assistance provided by the TC Department in the implementation of our Programme. Republic of Macedonia has also been and still is participating extensively in regional and interregional TC projects in order to complement national activities dealing in particular with nuclear institution and human resource development, human health, radiation protection, and nuclear applications. In addition, the country has actively contributed to the TC programme by hosting workshops, scientific visits, fellowships, and by offering its expertise to other Member States such as in the areas of nuclear security, human health, food safety, and veterinary medicine.

Macedonia has started a programme of systematic and comprehensive collection of information required to make a decision on entering into a new nuclear power programme. Country has prepared a National Energy Strategy, in which one of the options for meeting electrical energy demand in 2030 and beyond is to use nuclear power in addition to other energy sources. In this line the financial assistance and technical help by the Agency are required to properly implement all of the steps of this work, to perform assessment of the work plan and results, and to ensure that the programme is in compliance with international and IAEA guidelines and requirements in all necessary areas.

In this regard within the next Technical Cooperation Project Cycle 2016-2017, new national project concept on Preparation Activities for Making Decision on entering into New Nuclear Energy Program in Macedonia, Phase 1, Part II has been submitted and received positive recommendation by the Agency's Secretariat for its further developing into a Project design.

The application of nuclear technologies in the field of medicine is always considered as extremely important for improving health services. With substantial governmental cost sharing, a national TC project is currently being implemented that aims at introducing Positron Emission Tomography

(PET) in clinical practice (MAK/6/011). The introduction should be followed up in the mid-term by using the newly established diagnostic capabilities to further develop therapeutic procedures in nuclear medicine.

Radiotherapy practice at the University Clinic of Radiotherapy and Oncology in Skopje has been upgraded with TC support and the clinic was recommended as a Centre of Competence following a QUATRO mission by Agency experts. As it is the only radiotherapy centre in the country, it is planned to expand the capacity for cancer treatment both at the clinic and in the region, whereby the clinic shall serve as the main training provider.

The achievement of this goal will be realized through the activities of the ongoing project on Strengthening 3D Conformal and Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy and the approved new national project concept on Strengthening Brachytherapy and Advanced External Beam Therapy Techniques at this Clinic as well.

My country gives full support to the Annual Report of the Agency for 2013 and to the Budget planned for 2015.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, on behalf of my Delegation, I would like once again to reiterate Macedonian full support and continuing active partnership for the future IAEA activities aiming to fulfill its statutory obligations.

My country will remain committed to the efforts of the Agency to answer the challenges coming out from peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of all people.

Thank you, Mr. President.