

**58th Annual Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference
Vienna, 22-26 September 2014**

**MONTENEGRO
STATEMENT**

by

MSc Ivana Vojinović, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism

Mr. President,

Allow me to join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election as the President of this year's IAEA General Conference. Confident that under your capable leadership the Conference will come to a successful conclusion, I wish to express assurances of the full support of the Montenegrin delegation.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and a privilege to address you today on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Although Montenegro fully aligns with the EU Statement please allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Although Montenegro is an IAEA member only since October 2006, we have made a long way since our first General Conference in 2007. Some important developments marked the previous years, primarily concerning the creation of the preconditions on the national level for the full implementation of highest both international and EU standards in the nuclear safety and security as well radiation protection field.

Accession negotiations with the European Union were launched on 29th of June 2012 and Montenegro succeeded in concluding explanatory and bilateral screenings for all 33 chapters. The phase of analytical screening of the legislation begins with the so-called explanatory screening, within which the EC presents to the candidate country the relevant EU *acquis*. Subsequently, through the so-called bilateral screening, an assessment was made of the existing level of alignment of the Montenegrin legal framework with the EU *acquis*, all this with the aim to determine what still needs to be done to achieve the full harmonisation. Allow me to share with you that regarding the negotiating Chapter 15 - Energy we are well prepared to participate in the next phase of negotiations in the area of nuclear safety and security, and radiation protection. This testifies that Montenegro is on a good track to reach and implement the highest international standards in this area.

Negotiation Chapter 25 "Science and Research", which tackles among other things the issue of "nuclear sciences and applications" was successfully opened and provisionally closed on the Intergovernmental Conference held in Brussels on 18th of December 2012. In our deliberations on it we have emphasised and relied on our positive experience and cooperation with the IAEA.

On 19 of June 2014 the Government of Montenegro adopted the new Country Programme Framework (CPF) for cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency for the mid-term 2014-2020. This time frame will coincide with the new European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020" in which we plan to take part in an extensive

manner. We will strive to harmonise our future cooperation with the IAEA with our accession to the EU.

As Montenegro is defined by the first article of its Constitution as an “Ecological State”, all major decisions and steps have to be shaped and undertaken taking into account the principle of environmental sustainability. Against this background, allow me to assure you that the Government of Montenegro highly values the cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which contributes to the enhancement of the quality of life of our citizens.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the IAEA for the comprehensive technical assistance provided in the field of establishing and further developing of the regulatory infrastructure framework, based on the international standards and principles.

Taking into account that the application of nuclear technologies in medicine greatly contributes to the enhancement of human health, in the current cycle 2012-2013, the national technical cooperation programme focuses on upgrading QA/QC system in the diagnostic radiology for National Programme for Breast Screening”. I would like to express our outmost appreciation of the IAEA support provided in the oncological field, as well as in improvement of Montenegro’s nuclear medicine capacities. The protection of human health is the highest priority for us and we will continue to to strengthen our capacities, in order to fulfil national needs.

Based on the interest expressed by its relevant institutions, Montenegro is involved in various national, regional and interregional IAEA projects. I avail myself of this opportunity to express gratitude to the TC Department for Europe for their assistance in implementing our national technical cooperation programme. As well to express our gratitude to the management team of the IAEA for the efforts and enthusiasm invested in the implementation of interregional project INT9176 "Strengthening Cradle-to-Grave Control of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources in the Mediterranean Region” funded by IAEA, EU, USA and Spain. I am proud to share with you that Montenegro, with the assistance of the Agency, managed this June to prepare over 90 radioactive sources for safe and secure storage.

We are committed to further strengthen our national safety and security framework by implementing international instruments and fostering cooperation in medical sector, upgrading the regulatory framework infrastructure, enhancing the level of the environmental protection and radiation protection and preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Montenegro takes part in numerous non-proliferation initiatives, one of which is the Programme for the establishment of a system for knowledge management in the area of illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances and weapons in Southeast Europe and Caucasus. In this respect allow me to inform you that Montenegro opened Chapter 31 „Foreign, security and defence policy” in which is fully committed to implement non-proliferation initiatives in order to contribute to global security efforts for peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy.

Finally, please allow me to express the readiness of all relevant authorities and institutions of Montenegro to continue to actively contribute to our partnership and to Agency's work as well as in all activities projected in the decisions of this Conference.

Thank you!