



**STATEMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**TO THE 58TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

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Vienna, 22 - 26 September 2014

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Serbia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, however allow me to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, and to the other members of the Bureau, upon your election to this high office. I want to assure you of Serbia's full support and wish you every success in your future endeavors.

I also want to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Director General and the staff of the Secretariat of the Agency for their outstanding efforts and excellent work done in achieving the goals set during the 57. session of the General Conference and to compliment them on the professional preparations of this conference.

Mr. President,

I would also like to add congratulations of the Republic of Serbia to those states whom we have welcomed at this year's General Conference as new members of the IAEA: the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Vanuatu and wish them a lot of success and benefits in

their future activities enriched by the stronger ties and compliance with the Agency's goals. I believe that their participation in the IAEA family will give its contribution to the world peace and development.

Mr. President,

Serbia gives our support to the Agency's Program and Budget for 2015 and to the Report for 2013. Further on in my statement I will highlight some of the issues which are of particular importance to the Republic of Serbia.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Serbia rests firmly with its traditional orientation when application of nuclear energy is concerned - towards its use only for peaceful purposes. To that aim my country will continue to support the Agency's program on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency towards the successful implementation of the verification measures and efforts for development of integrated safeguards in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to which my country has been a party since the very beginning. The importance which my country attaches to strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to the suppression of nuclear terrorism is represented in a number of preparatory actions preceding the Additional Protocol ratification as well as activities on raising nuclear security awareness.

My country has remained strongly committed to all the fundamental principles and to the main goals of the Agency. It supports the Agency's efforts and activities towards a safe and secure application of nuclear energy for the benefit of human society and in accordance with the universal international aims and directions. Strongly oriented towards carrying out the process of integration in the European Union, Serbia is putting efforts to meet all the obligations from the Stabilization and Association Agreement with a particular emphasis on nuclear safety and safeguards. On 21 January 2014, the 1st Intergovernmental Conference took place, signaling the formal start of Serbia's accession negotiations to the European Union.

Mr. President,

The activities of the Agency in nuclear and radiation safety and security are the important institutional pillars of the IAEA. To protect public health and environment from the potential safety and security risks and to ensure that nuclear energy is used for the global peace and prosperity and for the benefits of future generations - is among our primary goals. International cooperation plays an important role in that goal. To strengthen safety and security, as well as international cooperation, my country has undertaken the steps to access to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. Preparations for ratification and implementation of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, signed by the Republic of Serbia 2005, are also underway. To that aim we requested

the technical assistance of the IAEA and UNODC and hosted a National Workshop to facilitate that process. The Workshop made the representatives of the wide range of the relevant governmental agencies more familiar with the Amendment and opens the way for the further administrative progress.

Republic of Serbia is on its way to strengthen the national nuclear security regime. On its way to achieving a full compatibility with the IAEA requirements in the field of nuclear security Republic of Serbia put a lot of efforts to provide the instruments for legislative and regulative framework. Developing national regulations in the field of nuclear security provided a legal basis for the development of the Design Basis Threat and physical protection system for operators as well as long-term plans and goals, such as the implementation of international conventions and strengthening professional capacities in the field of nuclear safety and security. Future plans of Republic of Serbia are the following - approval of Integrated Nuclear Security Plan, further implementation of Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and support to supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

Our efforts in capacity building and enhancing infrastructure in the field of radiation protection and nuclear safety are recognized by IAEA and supported through several national and international projects providing relevant expertise, advice and technical assistance.

Although application of nuclear energy is controlled and covered by a set of national legal instruments, the Republic of Serbia is strongly committed to further strengthening of its national nuclear legal and regulatory system making it more comprehensive and in compliance with the international safety standards and practices and with the EU *acquis*. Therefore we support the efforts of the Secretariat towards further improving of the international safety standards, recommendations and relevant international legal and political documents, and we recognize its technical assistance as an essential support for any progress.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me conclude by reassuring you, Mr. President that the Republic of Serbia will continue to lend its full support to the Agency's work and the work of its Secretariat based on its traditional orientation towards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you, Mr. President.