

Statement of the Head of Delegation of the Slovak Republic

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Chairperson of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic
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Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Slovak Delegation, let me join other delegations in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election as the President of the Fifty Eighth IAEA General Conference Session. I can assure you of the full support of my delegation in discharging your responsible duties. I would also like to welcome the Republic of Djibouti, Union of the Comoros, Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and Republic of Vanuatu that have recently decided to join the organization.

Mr. President,

My delegation subscribes to the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like

to address some issues in our national capacity that are of particular importance to my country.

Despite of the Fukushima Daiichi accident nuclear energy continued to play an important role in the global power generation. The Agency's updated projections for nuclear power growth indicate the expansion of nuclear power capacities by 2030, mainly in the Far East and the Central and Eastern European region. The main driving force for this development is the optimal and well-balanced energy mix with the emphasis on low-carbon technologies with affordable energy prices. This is also one of the most important pillars of Slovakia's energy policy for the medium and long term. Maintaining and further development of nuclear power is a key element of Slovakia's energy supply security.

The recent meeting of the European Nuclear Energy Forum, which was held in Bratislava in June 2014, reconfirmed the importance of nuclear energy and the need to develop a global approach at the EU level, which is technology neutral and effective to tackle the challenges of security of supply, competitiveness and environmental protection.

The development and the use of nuclear energy are closely linked with the safe and responsible management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. Whereas every State has the ultimate responsibility for the spent fuel and radioactive waste management, it is also its responsibility to establish national strategies in

this regard. In January 2014, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the updated Back End Strategy of the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy. Besides technical aspects of decommissioning, radioactive waste and spent fuel management, the document also contains economic and environmental aspects that are dealt with in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, my delegation welcomes this year's Scientific Forum devoted to science and technology for safe and sustainable solutions in radioactive waste management.

Mr. President,

Nuclear and Radiation Safety is one of the key preconditions for the peaceful use of atomic energy. Supporting the safety-related activities by establishing safety standards and making its expert services available to the Member States, is an indispensable role of the Agency. Slovakia supports the Agency's activities aimed at globalising nuclear safety by networking, integrating safety-related activities, supporting the Member States in the application of safety standards, and promoting adherence to international safety conventions.

Offering a comprehensive set of expert services provides the Member States with a tool to assess the compliance with safety standards. It is also a tool

for sharing experience and information on best practices among the Member States in all relevant areas.

In 2012 Slovakia hosted the International Regulatory Review Service Mission (IRRS Mission). The recommendations and suggestions have been subject to a thorough analysis and an action plan has been developed. Slovakia will host a follow up mission which will be conducted in February 2015 to assess the progress made in implementing the recommendations and suggestions.

As regards the Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, Slovakia appreciates the numerous technical meetings and related activities organised by the IAEA in support of the Action Plan. The National Report of Slovakia prepared for the 6th Review Meeting under the Convention on Nuclear Safety contains the enumeration of fulfilment of those actions of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, which are addressed to the Member States. This has been made on a voluntary basis with the aim to express Slovakia's commitment to implement the Agency's Action Plan in a transparent and accountable manner.

Mr. President,

Slovakia attaches great importance to the role that Agency plays in further development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. With regard to the application of modern radiation techniques the University Centre of Electron Accelerators (UCEA) of the Slovak Medical University (SMU) in collaboration with IAEA Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences has developed a pilot project for electron beam treatment of the environment polluted by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The electron beam irradiation facility with electron accelerator is a transportable technology and can be used for sites contaminated with dioxins, chlorinated pesticides and for treatment of sewage sludge of wastewater. This is a proof that nuclear technologies can make a valuable contribution to challenges in environmental protection.

Mr. President,

My delegation underlines that the TC projects are unique vehicles through which the Member States may obtain knowledge, information or technology from the Agency or other Member States in the peaceful and safe use of atomic energy. The IAEA involvement in these projects is also crucial in relation to application of safety standards and where impartial opinion is needed. The technical cooperation programme of Europe region consists of a set of projects addressing different areas in individual Member States or in a group of countries, based on their needs and common interest and the wish to work

together. The preparation of new regional projects for the next biennium has started. These projects will provide for an effective and efficient mechanism to support the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies that address socio-economic needs and contribute to sustainable development in the Europe region based on the principle of responsiveness, collaboration and solidarity.

Slovakia supports the activities of the Agency in assisting newcomer Member States to establish and improve their regulatory infrastructure and human resources development. These activities should include the identification of the needs, effective and efficient implementation of the assistance and the monitoring of the results achieved. The coordination of the Agency's activities with other assistance programs, such as bilateral assistance programs, is also an important aspect. Slovakia's experience in establishing regulatory infrastructure and the development of nuclear power and nuclear techniques are a valuable asset, which Slovakia is ready to share with all interested Member States under the auspices of the Agency.

Slovakia is ready to continue to provide its experts and training facilities and will continue to pursue general policy of accepting fellows and scientific visitors proposed by the IAEA.

Thank you Mr. President.