

STATEMENT OF GEORGIA

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International Atomic Energy Agency

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Dear President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to address the 60th General Conference of IAEA on behalf of the Government of Georgia. The Conference of the IAEA and approval of the new Member States of the Agency is highly appreciated. I would like to congratulate all of the respectful delegations representing their States and first of all, IAEA for creating such a valuable and sustained place where the issues of our concern are discussed and addressed.

For us it is an opportunity to present our contribution to the enhancement of nuclear and radiation system at international and national levels. And we have a lot to say in this regard.

First, let me reaffirm that Georgia is an aspired partner of IAEA and is actively engaged in performing basic requirements for nuclear safety and security. The contribution of IAEA by qualified experts, trainings, workshops, technical or financial resources is of high importance for the country like Georgia which is eager to ensure the full compliance with international standards. Technical Cooperation Programs create the fundamental basis for improvement of national conditions with regard to nuclear and radiation safety and security. Beside these programs, the second Country Program Framework (CPF) signed in 2015 should be underlined as well, in addition to identifying priority areas and supporting the national development goals. Furthermore, the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) adopted in 2015 constitutes one of the key documents for strengthening national comprehensive nuclear security regime according to the international standards, requirements and obligations.

Among the important missions planned for the nearest future, I would like to highlight the appraisal mission on education and training in radiation protection and safety of radiation sources to be held in November this year. Georgia sent also official request for IRRS Mission for the next year. We express our readiness to fully use the possibility we are bestowed through the mentioned missions. We consider IAEA tools, among them RASIMS, SARIS, as possibility for improvement of national conditions and effective cooperation at international level. For that

purpose we have already updated information on RASIMS indicating the very recent amendments occurred to Georgian nuclear and radiation system.

For Georgia it is not exaggerated to assert that IAEA contributed greatly to the reforms of Georgian legislation related to nuclear and radiation safety and institutional improvements. The particular emphasis in that regard should be given to the creation of Georgian Agency of Nuclear and Radiation Safety. It is a Legal Entity of Public Law under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia that ensures and guarantees independence of the Agency according to the IAEA standards and requirements. Respective amendments to the Law of Georgia on Nuclear and Radiation Safety provides the legal basis for the detailed and further regulations of different related issues, such as: basic safety standards in medicine, industry and education, maintaining national register, quality assurance and quality control, etc.

Importance of radioactive waste management in Georgia that was reflected in the adoption of the Law on Radioactive Waste by the Parliament of Georgia and approval of technical regulation on rules for handling radioactive waste by the Government of Georgia should be highlighted. Currently, radioactive waste storage and disposal facilities are under the full state control at the national level. It is among recent improvements that radioactive waste disposal facility was the subject of thorough rehabilitation in terms of physical protection and technical supply – happened for the first time in last 30 years period. It is also our plan to adopt the national strategy on radioactive waste management. We received a very productive expertise from Swedish Radiation Safety Authority in drafting national strategy and action plan. Sincere gratitude of Georgia goes to regulatory authority of Sweden and all esteemed experts engaged.

Dear. President, esteemed members of respectful delegations

The President of Georgia, addressing Nuclear Security Summit 2016, highlighted the crucial importance of full compliance with the obligations under the relevant international treaties and universality of already agreed mechanisms. We took step towards the universalization as well by initiating domestic procedures on accession to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. The proposal on accession was made by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia and we are approaching the very last internal procedures for official accession to the Convention. I would like to use this opportunity and on behalf of the Government of Georgia declare that document of accession will be officially deposited to the Secretary-General in the nearest future.

And of course, Georgia as a nuclear-free country is fully committed to fulfill international obligations and thus, contribute to make our planet nuclear free. In December 2015, 1.83 kg of HEU was removed from the Breeder-1 Neutron Source. Repatriation of high-enriched uranium was the responsive step towards Hague Communiqué of Nuclear Security Summit 2014. This fact makes obvious the level of responsibility we reveal towards international obligations and

initiatives. It should be mentioned that willingness of Georgia to repatriate high-enriched uranium became reality with the invaluable support of IAEA and US. We are pleased to receive a prize - Atoms for Peace in the framework of Nuclear Industry Summit 2016. Once again I would like to express our gratitude towards international recognition by our dear partners. Let me kindly state our support to the initiative of US to reinforce the 2016 NSS IAEA Action Plan by reaffirming the IAEA's central coordinating role in nuclear security.

Furthermore, I am honored to emphasize that the contribution of European Union is highly appreciated by Georgia. On the basis of EU, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and US Embassy support it became possible to adopt National CBRN Threat Reduction strategy and Action Plan for the period 2015-2019. Georgia is the first partner country in the *EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence* initiative having elaborated and officially adopted the National Action Plan. Georgian Government permanently hosts global events such as the World Congress on CBRNe Science and Consequence Management (organized in 2014 and held again in 2016).

Georgia finds bilateral relations as cornerstone for international cooperation. Therefore, it is utmost important for us to sign Memorandum of Understandings with regulatory authorities from other States. Our negotiation with United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission was successful in this regard as MoU was signed with NRC and Georgian Agency of Nuclear and Radiation Safety during Nuclear Security Summit 2016.

Let me kindly emphasize that Georgia devotes significant attention to countering nuclear smuggling. Within the framework of counter nuclear smuggling (CNS) joint action plan signed between Georgia and the US in 2007, the country is significantly improving its anti-nuclear smuggling technical capabilities. It is the position of Georgia that international cooperation, thus international nuclear security regime is the milestone for facing contemporary challenges constituted mainly by actors striving for usage of nuclear power for unlawful purposes. Thus, we continue tight cooperation with IAEA ITDB Office in exchanging relevant information.

As a result of continued bilateral relations between US and Georgia, we have real success in detecting cases of illicit trafficking. Consequently, in the period of 2006-2016, cases of illicit turnover of radioactive materials have been revealed. Several number of the detected cases were from the occupied territories indicating that there is the threat of our concern from the territories of Georgia that is not controlled by our government. This problem needs to be effectively addressed by international community.

Dear President, Distinguished Delegates,

To sum up my statement, let me express our sincere gratitude and look forward to continuing our constructive cooperation with the Secretariat and with all Member States.

Thank you for your kind attention.