

**Remarks of the UNOV Director-General on
behalf of the Secretary-General
60th regular session of the General Conference of
the IAEA
26 September 2016**

**Mr Amano,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good morning, and it is a pleasure for me to be here on behalf of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the 60th Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA.

The UN family in Vienna, including the IAEA, supports countries in addressing some of the most critical challenges to peace, security and development of our time.

I congratulate the IAEA on its 60th anniversary, which is being commemorated in a landmark year, when the whole of the UN system and international community has come together to play their unique role in realizing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Allow me to share with you the message of Secretary-General for this Conference:

It is a pleasure to send my greetings to the General Conference and to Director-General Amano and all the staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Over the last 60 years, the IAEA has been a champion for international peace, energy security, development and global health, working to facilitate the benefits of nuclear energy while ensuring that it is not diverted for malicious purposes.

In the past year, the IAEA has been at the centre of some of the world's most important security challenges.

I commend the Agency for successfully rising to the task of verifying the nuclear commitments agreed in the Joint Comprehensive Programme of Action on Iran's nuclear programme.

A sustained commitment by the parties, with the support of the IAEA and its members, will be essential to provide the international community with the necessary long-term assurances on Iran's nuclear programme.

I am pleased that the fourth and final Nuclear Security Summit earlier this year reaffirmed the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the global nuclear security architecture and in carrying forward political momentum.

I commend the IAEA's initiative in convening a ministerial-level international conference later this year to follow up on the gains made through the summit process.

I welcome a focus of this General Conference on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Goals was a towering achievement for people, peace, planet, prosperity and partnership.

The IAEA, through its technical cooperation programme, can make real contributions to helping Member States achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the fields of food safety, agricultural productivity and medicine – especially the treatment of cancer.

I wish you all the best for a successful conference.

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the UN Office at Vienna, I add my own best wishes for a successful session of the General Conference.

Thank you.