

**63rd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
(IAEA)
Vienna, 16-20 September 2019**

Madam President, allow me first to congratulate you on behalf of the Croatian delegation and myself on your election as the **President** of the 63rd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Distinguished guests and delegates.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Damir Trut, Assistant Minister of the Interior and head of the Civil Protection Directorate. I am the leader of the Croatian delegation at this conference.

Civil Protection Directorate is a **new** organisation as of January this year, established within a large reorganisation of government bodies and agencies, by integrating several former state organisations which dealt with civil protection, mine action, explosive atmospheres and nuclear safety. The main goal of the integration was the establishment of a more **functional and a more efficient system**, which includes processes in the area of **radiological and nuclear safety**.

This is an area that requires a serious approach and maximum efforts to regulate and control the use of ionising radiation sources, in order to stop the uncontrolled spread of nuclear material and to reduce the potential threat of major nuclear accidents or disasters. We are **all** aware what that would mean for the community we live in.

Croatia gives its contribution to the **efforts** of the international community in ensuring **peace and security** in the world. It plays an active role in implementing provisions of global treaties on the control of weapons and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Croatia takes part in **numerous** informal initiatives and regional instruments.

Croatia has also been intensively working on implementing its **international** commitments undertaken in the area of radiological and nuclear safety. In accordance with the recommendations of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission, our legal framework has been **revised**.

I would like to mention some of the key activities of the Republic of Croatia:

- Based on the successful bilateral cooperation with our neighbouring countries Slovenia and Hungary, timely exchange of information in the event of a radiological emergency is ensured, which is of exceptional importance for providing **timely** response.
- Last year, Croatia renewed the Arrangement on the exchange of technical information with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The arrangement is related to regulating nuclear safety, radioactive waste management, environmental impact of nuclear facilities and research in the field of nuclear safety. We are exchanging information with Bosnia and Herzegovina in the event of detection of undeclared cross-border traffic of nuclear and other radioactive material. This cooperation is based on the Protocol between regulatory bodies, which was signed in 2013.
- Croatia also fulfils **all** of its partner commitments in the work of Krško nuclear power plant, which include management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.
- In that respect, it should be noted that Croatia has adopted the **National program** for managing radioactive waste, disused sources and spent nuclear fuel. Croatia plans to build a **national centre** for radioactive waste management.

Programs of the International Atomic Energy Agency, at national and at regional level, continue to be the focus of Croatian activities. In the current project period, five national projects of technical cooperation have been implemented, namely in the areas of:

- medicine
- radioactive waste management and
- assistance in implementing recommendations of Agency's Mission related to legal framework

In the next two-year cycle, **three** national and **three** regional projects are planned, in accordance with the priorities of the Country Programme Framework. They are in their final stage of adoption.

We have drafted the **National report** for the 8th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which will take place in March 2020.

The Agency's IRRS Follow-up Mission will take place in October this year in the Civil Protection Directorate. We will be presenting the steps we took and the progress we made, especially in the segment of implementing recommendations of the IRRS Mission in 2015. We will also present the **effectiveness** of the integration of radiological and nuclear safety into the Ministry of the Interior.

It is our goal to continue to improve the legal aspect, in order to ensure **harmonisation** with international norms and to improve the whole system.

Madam President, distinguished conference participants, I hope that you concluded from my short presentation that Croatia is **well aware** of the radiological and nuclear danger. We are also very much aware of the importance of raising awareness of this, and of other kinds of danger. This is something that our Mol's Civil Protection Directorate has intensively been working on, through various prevention programs and educational activities.

Thank you very much for your attention.