



## G R E E C E

**Statement by Ambassador Catherine Koika  
Resident Representative of Greece to the IAEA  
63rd General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna, September 16-20, 2019**

Madame President,

At the outset, I would like to convey our deep sorrow for the passing of Mr. **Amano** and express our heartfelt condolences to his family and to the IAEA staff. We would like to congratulate the Acting Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent work during such challenging times.

Let me congratulate your/Her Excellency the Ambassador of Mexico on your/her election as **President** of the 63rd IAEA General Conference and to assure you of our full support.

Greece fully aligns itself with the EU statement delivered by Finland, the current EU Presidency. I would like to make some additional remarks on my national capacity:

Madame President,

Greece attaches great importance to the IAEA's role in the fields of non-proliferation, safeguards implementation, nuclear safety, nuclear security, technical cooperation and nuclear applications.

Greece strongly supports **NPT** as the cornerstone of non-proliferation and the disarmament regime emphasizing the need for its universality. We urge all States that have not yet done so to join the NPT as non-nuclear weapon

States. NPT's current review cycle is more than ever important and we look forward to achieving concrete results.

We reaffirm our full support for the establishment of a **zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East** and encourage all parties to reinvigorate their efforts in attaining this goal.

Greece welcomed the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** as a historic agreement, a multilateral endeavour that was unanimously endorsed by a UN Security Council Resolution. We are concerned by the recent developments as reported by the IAEA and we call for the full implementation of the JCPOA by all parties. We urge Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency. We find great merit and fully support the French initiative spearheaded by President Macron and we encourage all interested parties to demonstrate constructive approach. We continue to support the IAEA in its long-term mission of monitoring and verifying Iran's nuclear program and we commend the Agency for its impartiality, objectivity and professionalism.

Greece supports the Agency's efforts to further develop and successfully implement the **State Level Approaches** in States under integrated safeguards and welcomes the DG's periodic reporting on this matter. A consistent and universal application of the State Level Approaches strengthens global non-proliferation efforts.

Madame President,

Nuclear power option is not part of our national energy mix. However, we note the continued increase in the use of nuclear energy and the expansion of related sensitive technologies and materials in our broader region.

Greece supports IAEA's vital role in strengthening States' capacity to ensure that the development and use of nuclear energy take place under the most rigorous **safety** and **security** conditions for the protection of people and the environment. We believe that the development of nuclear energy infrastructure in volatile regions requires prudence. It also requires full cooperation with the IAEA and transparent international collaboration, as to minimize safety, security and proliferation risks.

For Greece stringent implementation of IAEA's safety standards and nuclear security guidance documents are of the highest importance. We encourage all countries to request **peer review missions** relevant to their programme, implement follow-up recommendations and in the spirit of transparency publish the reports of these missions.

Madame President,

We look forward to the **International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power**, to be held in Vienna in October of this year, as well as **the Third International Conference on Nuclear Security**, to be held in February 2020.

Allow me please to highlight the **main national activities** transpired since the last General Conference:

Greece, through the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE), continued to cooperate closely with the IAEA in several areas:

- Greece has incorporated to its national legislation the necessary regulations for radiation protection and the framework for the regulatory

control of practices of ionizing radiation, in accordance to a graded approach.

- A detailed assessment of the potential emergency exposure situations and the relevant protection strategies has been completed, based on the IAEA GSR Part 7 methodology. The assessment will be used for the update of the existing or the preparation of new national emergency response plans.
- In February 2019 the irradiated nuclear fuel of GRR1 research reactor has been shipped to the USA.
- Greece has invited IAEA for an ARTEMIS mission *{in order to obtain an independent expert opinion and advice on radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management, decommissioning and remediation.}* The mission is scheduled for 2023.
- IAEA Technical Cooperation activities are acknowledged by our scientists who share and gain experience by participating in Regional and Interregional Projects.
- Greek scientists continuously support IAEA activities by participating in various expert missions, while our experts have been assisting other member states in drafting radiation safety regulations *{and establishing national policies and strategies for Education and Training (E&T) in Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety}*.
- Greece participates in cooperation and collaboration initiatives which enhance national authorities' capability to ensure the effective regulatory control of the transport of radioactive material in the Mediterranean region and in Europe.
- The Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE), as the IAEA Regional Training Centre in Europe and Central Asia, implemented the 6th cycle

of the postgraduate educational course (PGEC) in radiation protection and the safety of radiation sources *{with the participation of 16 scientists from Europe and Central Asia and 3 scientists from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).}*

- Greece hosted 3 IAEA meetings with the participation of 60 scientists. Additionally, 10 fellows were hosted in national laboratories for on-the-job-training or scientific visits in the fields of radiation safety and security.
- Furthermore, 40 Greek scientists participated to various events (meetings, conferences, workshops, etc.) organized by the IAEA during the previous year.
- *{Finally, we are pleased and honoured for having provided the IAEA in the last six consecutive years with a Greek expert who has served in the DG's nuclear security advisory group (AdSec)}.*

Finally, Madame President,

The Greek Government would like to reiterate its strong support to the important mission and relevant projects of the IAEA and to express Greece's commitment to continue its active cooperation with the Agency.

Thank You