

## National Statement of Hungary

**Madame President,**

Congratulations on your election to preside over the IAEA General Conference – I can assure you of Hungary’s full support.

My delegation associates itself with the words of **tribute to Yukiya Amano**, the late Director General of the IAEA. Hungary will continue to lend her full support to the IAEA and to the acting DG in this transition period, and then to the new Director General soon to be appointed.

Hungary is of the view that **each and every country has its own right to decide about the proper energy mix, suitable for its own needs and capabilities**. We are convinced that **nuclear energy** is a low-carbon, safe and stable source of electricity that can be **a key element of a cost-effective and climate-friendly energy mix, by diminishing fossil fuel dependence**. Nuclear energy provides 50% of Hungary’s domestic electricity production and according to the Government’s strategy, it remains a key component to meet Hungary’s growing demand for affordable electricity in the long run. Maintaining our **nuclear capacities is one of the main pillars of Hungary’s new Energy Strategy** that is under development. Hungary is moving ahead with the **Paks 2 project** to construct two new power plant units, each with a capacity of 1200 MW. Hungary is using modern technology

fulfilling all international standards and requirements. In order to guarantee the transparency of the project, a major part of the engineering, procurement and construction contracts have been published this year.

**Operational safety** is of course the most important issue, when it comes to building and operating nuclear power plants. The first Periodic Safety Review of the currently operating 4 units of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) for another 20 years was successfully completed in 2018, following the renewal of their license. No major problems have been identified.

**The IAEA has also acknowledged the significant improvements in Hungary's regulatory framework for the Paks NPP** and other nuclear installations in the report of last year's follow-up mission conducted in Hungary.

Hungary places **strong emphasis on research and development** with special regard to the **innovation in the field of safe operation of nuclear power plants**, Generation IV technology and solutions for the management and disposal of radioactive waste and spent fuel. Paks NPP is the only Russian-designed nuclear power plant of its kind in the world operating in a 15-month fuel cycle.

Hungary attaches great importance to the **Agency's Technical Cooperation activities** in nuclear applications. Participation and experience of countries having advanced nuclear and radiological

infrastructure is indispensable. Therefore, Hungary has offered its national facilities and expertise in several fields to the Agency.

We appreciate the Agency's efforts in helping countries to use nuclear technology for medical purposes. The Hungarian national development goals and objectives relating to **nuclear science and technology in human health** are driven by the updated National Cancer Control Programme. A healthier environment, a better-equipped care system and up-to-date diagnostics will promote significantly shorter and more effective treatment benefiting the whole society. This is in line with my Government's priorities.

Regarding **nuclear security, Hungary believes that it is essential to maintain the central role of the Agency** in this field and provide it with the required resources.

In line with the particular importance Hungary attaches to nuclear security, we have been and continue to be active in all relevant and related foras. **Therefore, we have undertaken to serve as the convener of the Nuclear Security Contact Group for another year.**

**Nuclear terrorism remains a serious challenge and we must not forget about our responsibility to protect our infrastructure from such threats. Thus, Hungary will host the next Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in 2021.**

We have furthermore contributed to enhancing nuclear security by hosting several trainings and workshops in Hungary.

Hungary supports the united and resolute stance of the international community that has played an essential role in the limited but positive developments on the **Korean Peninsula**. Hungary continues to **insist on the complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula** and urges the DPRK to return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards as a non-nuclear weapon state.

We fully support the aim of the international community **to ensure the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme**. We believe that even if the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is not perfect, it **has proven to be a useful instrument for addressing international concerns** related to Iran's nuclear programme. At the same time, we are concerned over Iran's recent nuclear activities and announcements and we urge Iran to fully implement its nuclear undertakings under the JCPOA including its cooperation with the IAEA. **We also support every measure that aims to reduce growing tensions in the region.**

Finally, I wish to express Hungary's **appreciation for the work that the IAEA is doing in promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy**. Hungary has always been and will be a partner in these efforts, even more so, once elected to the **Board of Governors for the following two years.**