



MONTENEGRO

STATEMENT

by

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Madam President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating H.E. Ambassador Alisia Buenrostro Masiu of Mexico on her appointment as the president of the 63rd General Conference of IAEA. We rest assured that under your guidance the Conference will come to a successful conclusion.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on Monday by Finland on behalf of the EU. Today I am honored to address you in my national capacity and highlight several issues of specific importance to my country.

Madam President,

The International Atomic Energy Agency has made an immeasurable contribution to global peace, security and overall development. The Agency's work towards promotion of peaceful use of nuclear science and technology and assistance rendered to member states, as well as towards strengthening nuclear safety and security, has been of the utmost importance. In this regard, we commend the leadership and the efforts of the late Director General Yukiya Amano, whose passing was a great loss for the Agency and for the international community as a whole and it is with great honor that we voice our support to the Resolution on naming a new facility built under the ReNuAL project "The Yukiya Amano Laboratories."

Montenegro is a non-nuclear state, but we are, however, a strong supporter of peaceful use of nuclear energy, as well as nuclear safety and security. Since renewing our independence, we have developed very fruitful cooperation with the IAEA, through comprehensive and wide-ranging technical assistance programmes. These technical cooperation projects helped us develop and build our capacities in several fields identified in the country programme

framework. Close collaboration with the Agency has an added value for Montenegro, since it helps us fulfil requirements arising from the EU accession process.

Montenegro is grateful to the IAEA for all the support in the field of Technical Cooperation, which resulted not only in financial assistance but in the introduction of new modern technologies and procedures, mostly in the field of human health, environment and biotechnology.

In this context, we highly appreciate the IAEA's support to the establishment of the International Institute for Sustainable Technologies in South East Europe, as a large-scale research infrastructure of key relevance not only to Montenegro, but to the SEE region. We believe the Institute, with the support of the IAEA we hope, will contribute to the prevention of brain drain, strengthening system of research and innovation and economic prosperity of all SEE countries.
Madam President,

Montenegro reiterates our firm support for the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as the global cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, and we remain a strong advocate of its universalization. Special emphasis needs to be placed on the IAEA's role and its safeguards system when it comes to the implementation of the NPT.

Montenegro is a state party to all major IAEA conventions and other relevant international instruments, striving to meet the highest international standards of nuclear safety and security. In this context, we have undertaken activities to develop a comprehensive national regulatory and legislative framework in the domain of nuclear safety and security and have successfully harmonized it with the relevant IAEA standards. Most recently, in 2018, we deposited the instrument of ratification and became a Party to the International Convention on Preventing Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Montenegro has also invested significant efforts when it comes to the protection against harmful effects of ionizing radiation and radioactive waste management. We are constantly working on upgrading our capacities in this domain, determined to prevent any illegal use or mismanagement of radioactive materials and related knowledge and technologies. The new Law on Ionizing Radiation Protection and Radiation Safety is in the final stages of preparation, and for the first time it addresses both nuclear safety and security issues.

Finally, let me highlight that Montenegro is a state party to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. By joining this Convention we demonstrated that even small countries, without nuclear programmes, can provide support to international instruments that deal with issues which can directly or indirectly affect us all. In December last year we ratified the Joint protocol related to the implementation of the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, reaffirming our commitment to the establishing of the global liability regime to supplement and enhance these measures.

Madam President,

Let me conclude by reassuring you and the member states of Montenegro's continuous commitment and support to the work of the Agency as well as implementation of the outcomes of this Conference.

Thank you.

Vienna, 18. September 2019