

**Statement by the Republic of Moldova at the 63<sup>nd</sup> IAEA General Conference  
Vienna, September 16-20, 2019**

Presented by Mr. Ion Apostol,  
Director of the National Agency  
for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities

**Distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of my delegation, allow me to extend our deepest condolences on the passing of Director General Yukiya Amano. Mr Amano was a distinguished leader and diplomat and has been serving the IAEA with dedication and commitment.

**Madam President,**

I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President for this 63<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the IAEA, and I have the honour to pledge Moldova's full support in achieving the goals of the General Conference.

The Republic of Moldova highly values the whole range of the IAEA's activities, from verification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty aimed to increase nuclear security and safety, as well as the promotion of peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. I would like to emphasise the key role of the Agency in strengthening capacities worldwide for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

The IAEA's safeguards system represents a fundamental tool for international security and plays an essential role in fulfilling the goals of the NPT. We strongly support the key verification role of the Agency in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear programme.

**Madam President,**

The risk of nuclear terrorism remains to be a worldwide concern. We encourage all States to become parties to the relevant international instruments and to create a strong nuclear security regime.

The Republic of Moldova remains fully committed to strengthening the international regional and national nuclear security framework. This year Moldova became a party to Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and proves its dedication towards strengthening global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism.

The Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the IAEA Division of Nuclear Security implement a national technical assistance project on enhancing the security of radioactive material in use, storage and transport. The main objectives of this project are: enhancing capabilities for transport security of nuclear and radioactive material; securing vulnerable high-activity sources located in facilities where physical protection measures are not in place; and last, but not least human resources development.

In addition, the Republic of Moldova in partnership with the US DoE's NNSA Office of Radiological Security and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority are implementing the highest standards of security and sustainability consistent with IAEA guidelines and other pertinent international practices and policies at the sites containing first category radioactive sources.

A major challenge for my country represents legacy radioactive sources, especially those from the uncontrolled territory by official government authorities, so called Transnistrian region. This year we succeeded to collect significant number of legacy radioactive sources, including sources from uncontrolled part of the country. With the support of Swedish Radiation Safety Authority and facilitated by OSCE over 200 orphan sources were put under regulatory control.

**Madam President,**

Republic of Moldova does not have any nuclear power reactors or nuclear waste generated by it. However, we inherited legacy radioactive waste stored in the RADON-type disposal facility which is of concern for our Government. In cooperation with the IAEA TC Department and Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, in the framework of the National Strategy for Management of Radioactive Waste and its Action Plan for the next 10 years, we are performing the decommissioning of the above mention facility that contains legacy radioactive waste.

**Madam President,**

IAEA's Safety Standards are of great importance in ensuring nuclear safety worldwide. The Republic of Moldova recognises the great importance to the improvement of radiation safety and upgrades its regulatory framework on regular basis. In this process, the IAEA's safety peer review missions have proven to be valuable tools in supporting our national arrangements regarding nuclear and radiation safety. In December 2018, the Republic of Moldova hosted IAEA's Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission and currently is implementing its recommendations and suggestions.

In close cooperation with the IAEA TC Department, the Republic of Moldova has made significant steps in strengthening national health institutions' capacities to implement new technologies in nuclear medicine and radiotherapy and in reducing the impact from radon on human health.

**Madam President,**

In conclusion, the Republic of Moldova would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the Acting Director General Mr Cornel Feruta and the IAEA Secretariat for their effective activity and assure you of our full support and cooperation as the Agency continues to provide a significant contribution to global peace, security and development.

Thank you for your kind attention.