

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
63rd GENERAL CONFERENCE
(16-20 September 2019)

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 63rd Session of the General Conference and the members of the General Committee on their election.

At the outset, I would like to say a few words for the late Director General of the IAEA, Ambassador Yukiya Amano. As a man of remarkable dedication and professionalism, Ambassador Amano served the IAEA with unwavering determination and commitment during his entire career. He has left behind a strong legacy in all fields covered by the IAEA's mandate. Turkey will always remember his dedication, his smooth but resolute manner and his tireless efforts for further improving our ties with the Agency. May his soul rest in peace.

As a newcomer country in the process of actively establishing its nuclear power infrastructure, I would like to reiterate Turkey's understanding that the International Atomic Energy Agency has the central role in international nuclear cooperation, I would also like to underline my country's commitment to work closely with the Agency to support the highest standards in nuclear safety, security and safeguards to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the efforts of the IAEA to promote a strong and durable global nuclear safety under ever changing circumstances. As an embarking country, we also draw on main international mechanisms under the Agency's auspices such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS).

Last year, Turkey witnessed important developments regarding the establishment of its nuclear energy infrastructure. Turkey's adherence to establish a modern, reliable, effective nuclear infrastructure has been continued in the areas of regulatory control, supervision of nuclear and radiological activities and facilities. Following the Nuclear Regulatory Authority's establishment, reorganization of Turkish Atomic Energy Authority has been completed.

As part of the transition process, legal framework has been reviewed and new regulations are issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Authority. By the end of this year, secondary legislative infrastructure of NDK is expected to be finalised and will come into force.

Guidance and recommendations provided by the Agency through review services are instrumental in supplementing the Turkish nuclear programme. Turkey continued to benefit from review services and expert missions of the Agency. Turkey actively supports the IAEA's program for nuclear safety. Our experts share experience with their counterparts through the hosting of the IAEA capacity building

activities. Turkey has been in close cooperation with the Agency increasingly in terms of training courses, fellowships, workshops and technical visits. We thank the Agency for their close cooperation.

Mr. President,

Turkey supports the role of the Agency in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation on nuclear security and providing assistance in capacity building at technical, policy and regulatory levels.

We attach great importance to the globalization and full implementation of the CPPNM and the work on its Amendment. We look forward to the review meeting in 2021. We also look forward to the International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held on 2020. We believe that both events would contribute to the enhancement of international nuclear security.

Mr. President,

The IAEA safeguards system, which makes a crucial contribution to international peace and security, is under increasing pressure due to rapidly developing technologies and the increased use of nuclear applications and nuclear power production around the world. Turkey acknowledges the importance of keeping in pace with these developments and adapting the safeguards system to changing conditions and requirements. We also actively contribute to the 2020 NPT review process as a member of Non Proliferation and

Disarmament Initiative. We will work for the success of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Here, I would also like to stress our belief that the Agency's technical cooperation programme is the key tool for the Agency in the attainment of sustainable development goals. In this context, Turkey voluntarily contributed to the ReNuAL project.

Mr. President,

We would like to reiterate our concerns once more regarding the ongoing developments in the framework of the JCPoA. We believe that, challenges to the full implementation of the agreement do serve neither to the regional and international security, nor to the non-proliferation regime. We underline the importance of preserving the JCPoA, through multilateral reconciliation and understanding among all the relevant parties.

With respect to the DPRK, Turkey believes the present process needs a new momentum. The latest short-range missile tests of DPRK are a cause of concern for Turkey. Turkey believes that, DPRK's collaboration with the international community and its return to the NPT regime will enhance the international security and will serve mostly to its own people.

Thank you Mr. President.