



**Statement
of the Republic of Cyprus to the 64th IAEA General Conference
Vienna, Austria, 21-25 September 2020**

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of the Republic of Cyprus**

Dear Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the Sixty-fourth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Cypriot delegation in discharging your responsibilities. We also express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Agency, for their dedicated and professional work.

The Republic of Cyprus fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Germany on behalf of the EU and its Member States. The Republic of Cyprus would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Agency for its achievements and contribution to non-proliferation efforts, strengthening the international nuclear safety and security framework and promoting international cooperation. We would also like to congratulate DG Rafael Mariano Grossi for his first ordinary session of the General Conference as Director General and commend him for leading the IAEA's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As an island nation Cyprus was particularly affected with regards to the supply of medical radioisotopes by the worldwide reduction to the number of flights, due to Covid-19.

This Conference, as an important global gathering, provides an opportunity to briefly outline, in our national capacity, important priorities and targets.

The Republic of Cyprus, as a Contracting Party to all major international Treaties and Conventions relating to nuclear safety and security, assures of its full commitment to their implementation.

Cyprus highly values the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA in enhancing the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and appreciates its role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Republic of Cyprus has benefited from various projects funded by the Technical Cooperation Fund in terms of knowledge transfer and acquisition of expertise. Over the years, the Republic of Cyprus has co-organised a number of IAEA meetings, workshops and training courses in the country and will continue to do so.

The Republic of Cyprus currently has 2 national projects for the 2020 to 2023 programme cycles and is undergoing an ARTEMIS peer review mission, this year.

Following the finalisation of our Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) Cyprus has started implementing a series of activities under the associated Implementation Plan for the years 2019-2022.

The Republic of Cyprus, in 2020, hosted an expert mission that overviewed our current nuclear security related detection measures and assisted us in identifying the different steps to follow so as to improve our Nuclear Security Detection Architecture.

The IAEA has also provided Cyprus with experts and training on safety and security who continuously support our efforts for the cradle to grave management of sealed radioactive sources, with emphasis on the management of legacy disused sealed radioactive sources.

During the past year, the Regulatory Authority of Cyprus, with the support of the IAEA, organized practical exercises and meetings for all stakeholders participating in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. The Regulatory Authority also participated in several international exercises and I wish to express our gratitude to the Incident and Emergency Centre of the IAEA for their continuous support and assistance.

The Republic of Cyprus commits itself to maintaining and further strengthening radiation safety and security, as well as emergency preparedness and response. We

are working to further enhance safety and security culture and to move towards an integrated management system for the regulatory authority.

The Republic of Cyprus does not operate any nuclear power or research reactors or any other nuclear installations and its energy plans for the foreseeable future do not include nuclear energy. Nevertheless, we recognise the importance of the Nuclear Safety and Security Standards of the IAEA in ensuring nuclear safety and security worldwide. The Republic of Cyprus supports all measures and initiatives that strengthen nuclear safety and security both at national and at international level. Recognising the work done by the Agency and its Member States on nuclear safety and security, we urge all IAEA Member States to further ensure the highest levels of safety and security of nuclear facilities, so as to protect their own country, their neighbouring countries and the rest of the world.

International and, especially, regional cooperation is of the utmost importance for nuclear safety and security considering the transboundary nature of the impact of any nuclear event. In this context transparency, information to the public and consultation with all neighbouring countries likely to be affected in case of a release of radioactivity from nuclear installations and their related activities is vital, from the stage of design and throughout the whole lifecycle of nuclear facilities.

We believe that no Member State should underestimate the risks to nuclear security, especially in areas of the world where the risk of a terrorist attack, loss of control or cyber-attack can be significant. In this context, Cyprus again calls on its neighbouring, as well as all Member States, to cooperate regionally and exchange relevant information.

In conclusion, I wish to express again our appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat and the Director General, and to deliver our confidence and support in the IAEA's efforts towards peace and development.

Thank you, Chairperson.