

**Statement by Mr Žygimantas Vaičiūnas, Minister of Energy  
of the Republic of Lithuania, at the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Using this opportunity allow me to congratulate you, Mr Azzeddine FARHANE, on the election as the President of the 64th General Conference.

Mr President,

Lithuania fully associates itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to add the following.

Lithuania would like to commend Director General R. Grossi for his leadership in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We highly appreciate the quick actions taken by the Agency in ensuring the continuation of its activities under these circumstances. As well, we note with interest the ZODIAC initiative. We look forward to any further discussions on this matter.

Lithuania attaches great importance to the nuclear safety. My country is continuing the decommissioning of Ignalina NPP maintaining the highest level of nuclear safety. Last year we made a good progress in dismantling activities and radioactive waste treatment of the NPP – from the beginning of decommissioning of Ignalina NPP more than one third of all equipment was dismantled including complete dismantling of the Unit 1 turbine hall.

This autumn we expect a follow-up IRRS mission to take place in Lithuania and ARTEMIS mission next year.

Lithuania highly values the technical cooperation programme of the Agency, and we are grateful to the Agency for provided possibilities to Lithuanian institutions to strengthen the competences during implementation of the national, regional and international technical cooperation projects.

Mr President,

Lithuania is especially concerned about the nuclear safety situation in our close neighbourhood. Nuclear fuel was loaded into the first Unit of Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant in Ostravets without solving essential environmental, nuclear safety and radiation protection problems and without ensuring public participation in decision making. We express our grave concern over such act and encourage the international community especially IAEA to be resolute and seek for the implementation of the international environmental, nuclear safety and radiation protection standards for this and other similar objects around the world. To this end, the role of the IAEA in ensuring nuclear safety and radiation protection worldwide should be strengthened as well as the application of the IAEA's standards should become a transparent requisit. It is equally important that the IAEA take notice and support a proper implementation of the findings and recommendations of other relevant international activities, such as the EU stress tests, leading to the highest nuclear safety standards in the world.

Furthermore, we call upon all Contracting Parties of the CNS to transparently cooperate in providing to each other all relevant information and answers to the issues raised and encourage all Contracting Parties, especially embarking countries, to properly and timely address all indicated nuclear safety issues despite of the postponement of the 8th CNS review meeting.

Mr President,

While looking forward to the upcoming Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), we stress the need to uphold the NPT and maintain its credibility and effectiveness across all of its three pillars. In this regard, we fully support IAEA and its safeguards system, which is a fundamental component of the non-proliferation regime and plays a fundamental role in the implementation of the NPT.

Lithuania also supports international efforts towards full, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, until then, sanctions must remain in place and be fully implemented. It is of utmost importance that the DPRK complies with its obligations under multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

We encourage Iran to return to undisputable compliance with the NPT and other relevant agreements in a complete and verifiable manner.

Lithuania remains strongly committed to the objective of increasing nuclear security and welcomes the outcomes and the Ministerial declaration of the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2020.

Mr President,

Allow me to reaffirm Lithuania's continued support to the work of the IAEA. The Agency plays a crucial role in ensuring nuclear safety, radiation protection and security worldwide. My previously mentioned issues are key in current circumstances. Lithuania is expecting that the Agency will deliver its decisive role in proper manner to fully implement nuclear safety standards, but not to compromise it.

Thank you, Mr President.