



**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UN, THE OSCE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS in VIENNA**

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**Address of Ambassador Veselin Šuković, Permanent Representative of
Montenegro to the UN, OSCE and other IOs in Vienna at the occasion of the
64th General Conference IAEA, September 22, 2020, Vienna**

MONTENEGRO STATEMENT

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor and a privilege to address you today on behalf of the Government of Montenegro and to, first of all, congratulate you, Mr. President for the election as the President of the 64th Session of the General Conference.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement made by Germany, on behalf **of the European Union**. Our statement will be distributed in full, however, allow me to now make just **two remarks in my national capacity**.

First, all of our countries have suffered in these challenging times, and **most of our countries, including my own, have required assistance to successfully manage** the many layers of the crisis that the **COVID-19 pandemics** have imposed on our societies.

It is with deep gratitude that I say that the **Agency's response to our request for assistance has made a critical contribution** in the **ability of Montenegro to put under control the first wave of COVID pandemics** and **become the first "Corona free" country in Europe**.

Allow me to share this gratitude with the **United States of America**, which donated close to a quarter million euros for the two COVID-19 kits that were delivered to my country.

Currently, **Montenegro is combating the new wave of cases**, which is, once again, **intensifying the need for adequate equipment**. All available resources, both material and human are being mobilized, as **we stand resolute** in our intention to deal with this challenge in the most efficient way possible.

Second, as stated in the letter of the Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro sent to the Director General Grossi, in addition to the already comprehensive and wide-ranging technical assistance program we have developed with the Agency, **Montenegro remains committed to the future collaboration with the Agency, in particular, in addressing the zoonotic diseases.**

In this regard, allow me to **express our support for the Zodiac initiative.**

We hope that this project will demonstrate that **the most impactful outcomes are those achieved through strong coherence and global coordination among all relevant international actors.**

Mr. President,

Allow me to conclude by expressing **the readiness of all relevant authorities and institutions of Montenegro to continue to contribute to the Agency's work** in the fields of peaceful use of nuclear energy, nuclear security and safety, non-proliferation and technical cooperation.

As a **new member of the Friends of ReNuAI**, we use this opportunity to underline the importance of the continuous modernization of the remaining nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, and to **call on others to join these efforts.**

Thank you.