



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STATEMENT

64th GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Vienna, 21 - 25 September 2020

Mister President,

On behalf of the Republic of Serbia, I congratulate you on your election as President of the 64th General Conference. I assure you that Serbia will offer you full support and cooperation.

We welcome the membership of the Independent State of Samoa and the Republic of Guinea.

Serbia aligned with the Statement by the European Union and I will further emphasise only a few issues particularly important for my country.

Mister President,

Faced with an unprecedented threat to public health from the outbreak and rapid spread of COVID – 19, Serbia demanded and received assistance from the Agency, for which we are deeply grateful. The IAEA donation to Serbia, amounting 227 thousand Euros, in the form of equipment for 3 specialized COVID-19 RT-PCR units, has strengthened significantly our capacities in rapid detection of infection carriers. By providing similar assistance to additional 124 countries worldwide, the Agency once again demonstrated commitment to contribute to the benefit of the entire human kind. Serbia is convinced that only through common approach, the global challenges resulting from COVID-19 pandemic can be efficiently and

permanently overcome. In view of that, Serbia is ready, in accordance with its capacities, to provide its full contribution.

Serbia reaffirms commitment to the fundamental principles and goals of the IAEA in terms of safe and secure use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our country will continue to support all IAEA efforts to strengthen and upgrade the efficient implementation of Safeguards, in compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

This confirms our commitment to combating all threats arising from nuclear terrorism. Serbia will also continue emphasizing the importance of nuclear safety and security of radioactive sources and contribute to global efforts aimed at reinforcing efficient mechanisms of combating illicit transfer of nuclear material and other radiation sources by improving their physical protection and by putting orphan sources under control.

Mister President,

Serbia is strongly committed to further strengthening its legal and regulatory framework related to radiation and nuclear safety and security in accordance with international standards and EU regulations.

The priorities of my country, now more than ever, remain to be protection of public health and environment and exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy. Serbia will

continue to fulfill all its obligations stemming from the relevant international conventions and to apply the Code of Conduct on radioactive sources, in line with the high importance we attach to these IAEA documents for enhancing radiation sources safety and security.

Mister President,

I also wish to emphasize the importance of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme for my country. This support is proved to be of fundamental significance during the COVID – 19 crises.

Serbia is active in a number of national, regional and international projects. Despite challenging circumstances caused by the pandemic, we are investing all our efforts to complete them successfully.

Mister President, distinguished delegates,

Before concluding, let me stress that Serbia fully supports the IAEA 2019 Annual Report and the 2021 programmes and budget.

Let me reassure you that we will consistently continue our full support of the IAEA and Secretariat activities, and will remain devoted to fundamental IAEA principles of safe and secure use of nuclear energy.

Thank you.