



SLOVAKIA

**National statement on the occasion of the 64th
Session of the IAEA General Conference**

Delivered by the Alternate Head of Delegation
HE Mr. Peter MIŠÍK

Vienna, 21 September 2020

Mr. President,

1. Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Germany on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make additional remarks in a national capacity.

Covid-19 pandemic

2. On behalf of my delegation, let me join others in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 64th General Conference and congratulating Mr. Grossi for his first General Conference as a Director General and, most importantly, for leading the Secretariat in these challenging times of Covid-19 pandemic, *ensuring the business continuity of the IAEA and enhancing the provision of technical assistance to Member States.*
3. The uninterrupted implementation of the Agency's safeguards and a conduct of the in-field verification activities despite the existing travel and health restrictions is an excellent example of the IAEA's professionalism. Furthermore, being a country that operates a number of nuclear and radiation facilities, we have welcomed the establishment of the pilot international peer-to-peer Covid-19 OPEX NPP Network *facilitating exchange of information and know-how among Member States and all relevant stakeholders.*

Nuclear Power

Mr. President,

4. Nuclear power continues to have a stable position in the Slovak national energy mix. As a proven, low-carbon technology and a sustainable source, it provides an effective solution to meet my country's *ever-increasing* energy demands as well as it plays an important part in transitioning to the green economy with a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Its vital role is well reflected in the Slovak Energy Policy, which defines nuclear as one of its pillars.

Nuclear Energy & Climate Change

5. Climate change is the most pressing issue of our time *that requires comprehensive strategies and sustainable solutions*. Slovakia is fully committed to this joint task and has taken a number of concrete steps to transform these into practice. In December 2019, an Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the period of 2021-2030 was adopted adding a new decarbonisation dimension and reaffirming the key role of nuclear energy in meeting the targets set therein.

Non-proliferation

Mr. President,

6. Slovakia is fully committed to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, with the NPT as a cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime. *The Agency's role in the implementation of safeguards and its independent verification is a fundamental part of this regime.*

Nuclear Safety & Security

7. I would like to echo the remarks made by the EU reiterating the utmost importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security. The Agency's role in this regard is indispensable, in particular by establishing and developing Safety standards *and Nuclear Security Series and providing assistance to Member States in their implementation through its expert services.*

Nuclear Applications & Technical Cooperation

8. The Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme is an essential part of its mandate. My country is a staunch supporter of the benefits of nuclear energy to the socio-economic development of Member States and the international community as well as its contribution to the attainment of the universal SDGs. Similarly to many others, Slovakia benefits from the TCP and attaches great

importance to this mechanism, in particular in capacity building. *We reiterate our call for a transparent, non-discriminatory and needs-based development of the programme covering all of its technical fields, including nuclear safety and security.*

9. *As another example of our support to the promotion of the practical use of nuclear technologies and of our assistance to the IAEA in research and development, I am pleased to announce the recent approval of the Nuclear and Decommissioning Company – JAVYS to become an IAEA Collaborating Centre in the area of decommissioning. I am fully convinced that JAVYS's extensive experience and technical expertise will be a valuable contribution to the Agency's work.*

To conclude,

10. My country wishes to emphasize the need for an efficient and effective way of managing the Agency's activities and considers good cross-departmental cooperation crucial to the successful delivery of its major programmes. We also consider systematic implementation of gender aspects *and an increased representation of women at the Secretariat, especially in higher professional categories*, as an important aspect of the Agency's management. In this regard, we welcome the DG's commitment to achieve gender parity.

Mr. President,

11. Slovakia looks forward to a successful General Conference and stands ready to assist you in your important work.

Thank you.