

Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus
to the
International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century
(26–28 October 2022, Washington D.C., USA)

Let me first thank IAEA and the hosts of this Conference for the opportunity to exchange views on the role of nuclear power to clean energy transition.

The Republic of Cyprus does not operate nuclear power plants nor produces nuclear energy. We recognize nevertheless, the role of nuclear technologies in the context of the international efforts to tackle climate change and mitigate its adverse effects.

We therefore support the work of IAEA and member states in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear technology, bearing in mind in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement commitments.

At the same time, 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.

The Republic of Cyprus, as a Contracting Party to all major international Treaties and Conventions relating to nuclear safety and security, reiterates its full commitment to their implementation. Allow me to note here that 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the introduction of specific legislation on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and Security in the country.

We also want to stress our support to the continuous improvement and strengthening of nuclear safety and security framework in order to prevent nuclear threats and facilitate peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

In this regard, international and regional cooperation is of the utmost importance for nuclear safety and security considering the transboundary nature of the impact of any nuclear event. Transparency and consultation with all neighbouring countries likely to be affected in case of a such an event is therefore vital in building trust among member states and the public.

The potential of the nuclear power is indeed in the enhancement of confidence in a robust and effective international regulatory framework. And its image is to be determined by that.

Let me finally stress our support to the IAEA and its Director General's efforts for their work in such challenging times. While diplomatic efforts should be maintained and any opportunity for a diplomatic breakthrough should be seized, our firm belief remains to the adherence to the international law.