

## GREECE

STATEMENT by Dr. Christos Housiadas/

Chairman of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission

On the occasion of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Washington, D.C., USA, October 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Mr. President, Excellences, distinguished delegates,**

I would like to congratulate the International Atomic Energy Agency for the organization of this conference. I would also like to compliment the International Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for co-sponsoring the conference.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Government of the United States of America and the staff of the Department of Energy for the competence and dedication shown in hosting the conference.

**Mr. President,**

Greece is a non-nuclear country and nuclear power is not a national option. Especially in the present moment of geopolitical energy crisis, our national priority is to strengthen the energy self-sufficiency of the country through the already available local resources.

On the other hand, as the Safety Authority for Greece, we can reaffirm Greece's stance, in line with the European Union's position, that the nuclear option is a national sovereign choice, as is the composition of each country's energy mix.

Given the aforementioned, our national statement will focus on a specific topic of interest for this conference, namely, the role of international collaboration in the deployment of nuclear power technologies, in particular in ensuring safety, security and safeguarding.

**Mr. President,**

Greece shares the view of the need for international dialogue on nuclear energy matters and for inclusiveness in such dialogue regardless of being a nuclear or a non-nuclear country. We are aware that participation in such a dialogue requires also relevant knowledge and expertise at technical level, to be taken into account in conjunction with the political aspects of the dialogue. This

remains a challenge for a non-nuclear country and rightly so this aspect is considered in the review meetings of the international conventions.

Greece is taking specific measures on nuclear knowledge management. Such measures include the active participation of Greek scientists and institutions in scientific projects, education and training actions of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Technical Cooperation program, but also at the European level active participation in the actions of Euratom's research and development programs. Further to that, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission took the initiative to establish a scholarship system for postgraduate studies in nuclear-related subjects. We took this decision believing, precisely, in the importance of maintaining in the country critical expertise and the existence of appropriately trained scientific potential in relevant subjects, so that it is possible to monitor developments and participate in the international dialogue.

**Mr. President,**

Greece attaches the utmost importance to nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation worldwide. Greece notes with satisfaction the specific reference made in the conference announcement, where it is expressly stated in the introduction that, I quote, "global and national efforts to ensure safety, security and non-proliferation continue to be pillars in the operation, expansion and introduction of nuclear power in the 21st century".

At a national level, awareness of the increased national responsibility regarding nuclear safety is important for countries which operate, or plan to operate nuclear power plants, given that the consequences of nuclear accidents know no borders. As it is aptly said: "A nuclear accident anywhere is a nuclear accident everywhere". It is therefore of paramount importance for Member States to demonstrate a strong political commitment to support safety and security, not only in national level but also in their neighbourhood, as well as globally, through all relevant international mechanisms. We would welcome the inclusion of this encouragement in the conclusions of the conference.

At a global level, Greece reiterates its interest and support for international efforts and programmes on nuclear safety, security and safeguarding. Greece believes that international fora and bodies are valuable tools that enhance compliance with the highest safety standards, promote openness and transparency and consolidate the global nuclear safety and security regimes.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to close my statement by commending the International Atomic Energy Agency for its hard, continuous efforts to reduce the chance of an accident at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant and its demonstrated

commitment to address this unprecedented challenge. We firmly support the efforts therein by IAEA and its Director General.

We welcome the dialogue this conference promotes as well as the opportunity it provides to enhance openness, transparency and the sharing of experience and knowledge within the international community.

Thank you for your attention.