

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my appreciation to the IAEA for organizing this conference and to the Government of the United States of America for their hospitality.

Türkiye highly appreciates the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in nuclear power, science and technology, as well as peaceful applications, technical cooperation and safeguards.

I also express our appreciation for the Director General Grossi and the Agency's presence and his intense diplomatic efforts to stabilize the nuclear safety and security in the conflict zones.

Our top priorities in the energy sector are establishing sustainable energy policies and ensuring energy security. In order to attain carbon neutrality and sustainable development objectives, nuclear energy will play a vital role in providing clean energy. Decarbonizing our energy system is critical to reach our climate objectives and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Türkiye continues its efforts to increase the share of renewable energy sources and adding nuclear power to its energy mix.

Türkiye remains resolutely committed to the goal of ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and as a newcomer; we are making concrete efforts to establish our nuclear energy infrastructure. Currently simultaneous construction of 4 units are progressing at Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant. Successful commissioning of our first Nuclear Reactor in Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant expected to be in 2023.

I would like to highlight IAEA's contributions towards ensuring safe use of nuclear energy through its review missions and advisory services. Türkiye has been successfully implemented

5 review missions. Other missions like Emergency Preparedness Review and State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material will be implemented in the next year. In this regard, we are improving Türkiye's nuclear regulatory infrastructure by following IAEA's suggestions. We are confident that the Agency's vital peer evaluations and advising services will also guarantee the safe and successful commissioning of our first nuclear reactor at the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant.

Besides, Türkiye is a participant in the Agency's Comprehensive Capacity Building Initiative for nuclear safeguards. We are grateful for the Agency's efforts to provide services and assistance that are specifically suited to our nation's requirements.

The Nuclear Harmonization Initiative was launched this year, and it gave us a great chance to standardize a global framework for future nuclear plant designs. For the safe and efficient deployment of Small Modular Reactors, this effort is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring together various nuclear industry stakeholders. I want to state that we remain committed to this Initiative and that we are ready to help.

With the ratification of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Radioactive Waste Management in July, Türkiye is now a party to all international nuclear conventions and routinely provides compliance reports to foster transparency and confidence-building.

Türkiye also attaches importance to involve women, enhances the presence of women in nuclear area in the country and improve the gender balance in different working areas of nuclear applications.

Established organizations and bodies in Türkiye will continue to focus on improving the well-being and prosperity of country with the use of nuclear science and technology in energy, food, agriculture, industry, water management, human health, climate change and environment.

Türkiye appreciate the efforts of the IAEA to promote a strong and durable global nuclear cooperation under ever evolving circumstances and reaffirm our strong support to the Agency to attain the highest standards to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear technologies for peaceful applications. We look forward to strengthening and deepening the cooperation with IAEA in the future.

Thank you for your attention.