

**Statement of the Republic of Moldova at the 67th session of the IAEA General
Conference**

Vienna, 25-29 September 2023

Madam President,

The Republic of Moldova fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Spain on behalf of the European Union and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Madam President,

Allow me to extend my congratulations on your election and to assure you of Moldova's unwavering support and commitment to ensuring the success of this General Conference.

We also extend our congratulations to Director General Grossi on his reappointment, and we eagerly anticipate a close collaboration with him during his second term. The Republic of Moldova places great significance on the IAEA's role as a technical, independent, and impartial entity in all facets of its mandate and maintains a strong commitment to fostering robust Moldova-IAEA cooperation.

In these challenging times, it is imperative that we safeguard the rules-based international order, with the United Nations at its core. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, its ongoing armed attacks on Ukrainian territory, and its illegal seizure of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) constitute blatant violations of international law, including the UN Charter. Such actions also undermine the very principles enshrined in the IAEA Statute. They heighten the risks to nuclear safety, security, and the continued implementation of safeguards, requiring a suitable response from the General Conference.

The Republic of Moldova condemns Russia's war of aggression in the strongest terms possible. We stand firmly in support of Ukraine and express our gratitude to the Director General and the dedicated Agency staff for their active efforts under challenging circumstances.

We reiterate our call upon Russia to adhere to the resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors.

Madam President,

The Republic of Moldova has committed to contributing to the strengthening of nuclear security and the exclusive peaceful use of atomic energy. We wholeheartedly support the efforts of the IAEA in making a fundamental contribution to international peace and security, as well as in supporting global development. Moreover, the Republic of Moldova appreciates and fully supports the efforts of the IAEA and its member states in maintaining the regime of physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear and radiological security across all nuclear technology applications, including the promotion of green energy. Strengthening the resilience and protection of critical infrastructure in energy, communications, information technology, transportation, health, food supply, hazardous material transport, public services, and cultural heritage preservation is of utmost importance.

Considering the ongoing war close to our border, implementing the highest standards of nuclear safety and security remains a priority for my country.

Over the past year, we continued our persistent efforts to increase awareness and ensure comprehensive collaboration among all government agencies responsible for implementing International Conventions related to nuclear and radiological security. In this regard, the national legislation in the field of radiological and nuclear security, detection of orphaned radioactive sources, and radiological monitoring in the management of recyclable metal has been updated.

Simultaneously, with the support of the IAEA, the United States, the European Union, Sweden, and other international partners, nuclear physical security has been strengthened in the context of combating illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials through the provision of portal and portable detection equipment at border crossing points, frontline officer training, and capacity building in nuclear forensics.

Madame President,

Concerning the ongoing crises that my country is facing, I am pleased to inform you that the Republic of Moldova's cooperation with the IAEA remains to be a fruitful one. We are grateful to the IAEA staff and experts for their assistance in implementing international standards, thus reinforcing our efforts to improve radiological and nuclear security in the Republic of Moldova. During the period of 2022-2023, the Republic of Moldova has worked intensively to enhance the national regulatory framework in radiological and nuclear security, in line with international commitments and Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission recommendations.

Referring to the National Country Program Framework 2020-2025 and the identified priority areas of technical cooperation with the IAEA (Physical security and radiological and nuclear safety; Food and agriculture; Health; Water and the environment; Energy and industry), I am pleased to announce that the technical assistance projects are successfully being implemented. Currently, three national projects are being implemented within the 2024-2025 technical cooperation program.

Moreover, the Republic of Moldova is committed to continuing successful bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries, Romania and Ukraine, particularly in terms of timely information exchange in case of a radiological emergency.

In conclusion, I would like to once again underline the Republic of Moldova's determination to continue close cooperation with the IAEA and wish success to this General Conference session.

Thank you Madam President.