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Statement by

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**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign
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**at the Sixty-seventh Regular Session of the IAEA General
Conference**

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Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by congratulating you, Mr President, to preside over the IAEA General Conference. You can count on the full support of the Slovenian delegation in your efforts towards a successful outcome of the conference.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement to which I will add some remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia has just completed its membership in the IAEA Board of Governors and is preparing for the non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council. As a strong supporter of multilateralism, we consider the Agency's work of utmost importance. We commend the Director-General Grossi and the Agency's staff for their dedicated engagement.

Mr. President,

First, I have to touch upon the **Russian invasion of Ukraine** and its implications. Slovenia strongly condemns the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. It is discouraging that the nuclear safety and security situation in the country remains precarious.

Until Russia withdraws its troops from the whole territory of Ukraine, the respect for the seven indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security, as set out by Director-General, is essential.

More specifically, the Russian occupation of **Zaporizhzhia** Nuclear Power Plant is still a major risk factor. In this regard, the importance of the respect for the five principles to avoid a nuclear accident in Ukraine, outlined by the Agency, cannot be overstated.

Ensuring nuclear safety and security of civilian nuclear infrastructure and materials in all circumstances, including armed conflict, is very important. I commend the Agency and the team stationed at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant for their dedication, professionalism and impartiality in addressing the nuclear situation in Ukraine.

Secondly, *Mr. President*, I would like to reiterate my country's position that we need to assure that ***Iran's nuclear programme*** is exclusively peaceful. We remain concerned with Iran's nuclear activities, which manifestly depart from the provisions of the ***Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action***.

The nuclear deal is a vital part of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and its regime must be preserved. I call on Iran to refrain from any further escalations, to reverse all activities inconsistent with the JCPoA and to resume all JCPoA-related monitoring and verification measures.

We also expect Iran to fully engage with the Agency in implementation of all the commitments and ***legal obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement***.

Thirdly, I call on ***Democratic People's Republic of Korea*** to refrain from its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile tests, which constitute a grave threat to international peace and security.

Slovenia supports all diplomatic efforts that will lead towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible de-nuclearization of the DPRK.

The DPRK must return to compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. It should also sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty without delay.

Until then, we call on all states to implement the restrictive measures in force fully and effectively.

Mr President,

Slovenia strongly supports the work of the IAEA across the spectrum of its mandate. We welcome the Agency's ongoing monitoring of the **Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant treated water discharge**. We appreciate Japan's transparent and cooperative approach and we are looking forward to Agency's further reports.

Slovenia also commends the transparent manner in which Australia, United Kingdom and United States have approached the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines by Australia. We expect the **AUKUS** partners to continue to pursue their goals in concert with the IAEA Secretariat and in full respect of their international obligations.

Finally, *Mr. President*, as a country operating a Nuclear Power Plant, we are putting **special emphasis on nuclear safety and security**. We support the continuous development and improvement in this field.

At the same time, we appreciate Agency's work in connection to **sustainable development**. We support activities on a broad range of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including as a clean and reliable energy source. In this regard, we were pleased to financially support the renovation of the Seibersdorf Laboratories.

We commend the activities of the Secretariat in pursuit of **gender equality**. We have been providing donations to the Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship Programme.

We are pleased that the Agency shows coherence in its approach by launching the Lise Meitner Programme for early- and mid-career women professionals.

I would like to thank the Director-General for all the efforts to achieve gender parity in the Agency.

Mr President,

Let me reassure you that also as a member of the UN Security Council Slovenia will do its utmost to support the work of the Agency. I am convinced that this is essential at the time when the international community is confronted with the mounting nuclear risks.

Thank you.