



Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri OSCE, UN i drugim međunarodnim org. u Beču
Стална мисија Босне и Херцеговине при ОЕБС, УН и другим међународним орг. у Бечу
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, United Nations Office and other
International Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
H.E. Mr. Josip Brkić

at the 67th General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency

September 26th 2023

Mr. President,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to congratulate Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the IAEA on her election as the President of the 67th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I assure you, Mme. President, of the full cooperation of my delegation during this Conference.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, the Director General of the Agency, on his re-election to the post for the next four years. We would also like to commend DG Grossi for his able leadership of the Agency during this unprecedented and challenging period behind us and, unfortunately, ahead of us as well. We also note, with appreciation, the Agency's continued effectiveness and ability to continue its work despite these difficult circumstances.

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union delivered earlier, but allow me to address a few national

issues relevant to the agenda of the Conference, and those of outstanding importance to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains concerned by the decision of the Republic of Croatia to select Čerkezovac as a preferred location for the disposal of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel of the Krško Nuclear Power Plant.

Čerkezovac, located in the municipality of Dvor on Trgovska Gora in Croatia, is in very close proximity to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. As such, this is an issue of importance for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and an issue that it has been trying to resolve with the Republic of Croatia since 2015.

Scientific and professional analysis of the Experts and Legal Teams of our country have continually provided arguments to issues such as potential threat to the health of residents in 13 municipalities (around 230,000 people), threat of a potentially environmental impact (biodiversity loss, food insecurity, soil contamination, surface water pollution etc.), and concerns that, due to the risk of earthquakes, this location does not meet standards or safety protocols for the intended purpose.

In our view there are risks such a facility potentially poses to its immediate surrounding area, in particular for the people and natural resources.

The most important thing for Bosnia and Herzegovina is to find a solution in a joint constructive dialogue and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Assessment of Environmental Impacts in a Cross-Border Context (Espoo Convention).

We reiterate our commitment to resolving this issue with Croatia in the spirit of good-neighborly relations and respect for mutual interests.

Mr. President,

Though not a nuclear country, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to invest significant efforts to be a valuable member of this Organization, to adopt and implement the most important international treaties, conventions and agreements related to our radiation and nuclear international obligations. We intend to further strengthen the legal and regulatory framework related to nuclear and radiation safety and security in line with international standards.

I would like to take a moment and express our sincere appreciation to the Agency and its Department for Technical Cooperation for valuable assistance provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are committed to continuing our cooperation with the Technical Cooperation Department in order to improve and strengthen our national capabilities in the safe use of nuclear technology in medical, industry, agriculture, veterinary and radiation protection and nuclear safety and security.

The Technical Cooperation (TC) Program presents a key mechanism of the Agency for technology transfer and capacity building in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology to meet Member States' needs. It is, therefore, of crucial importance that its funding is guaranteed, sufficient and predictable. For its part, Bosnia and Herzegovina is paying its annual contributions to the IAEA and additional Funds regularly. Also, its part of

the succession debt of the former Yugoslavia is under continuous payment schedule.

At the same, Bosnia and Herzegovina benefits from participation into the IAEA Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network, as well as into the Europe and Central Asian Safety Network. In the latter Bosnia and Herzegovina is a coordinator of the Working Group for Safety Infrastructure.

Finally, we are implementing our obligations from the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the amendments. In this area we established an appropriate cooperation with the IAEA, as well as with many countries bilaterally, including with the US Office of Radiological Security.

Mr. President,

Allow me, in conclusion, to thank the Director General and the Agency staff for their continuing professionalism and their diligent work in the preparation of the 67th regular session of the General Conference.

Thank you for your attention.