



STATEMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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

at the 68th General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency

16th – 20th September 2024

Mr. President,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to, on behalf of the delegation and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to express our sincere regret and condolences to the people of Austria and the region, who have lost their loved ones during these devastating floods. This is a disastrous situation, affecting thousands upon thousands of people, causing tragic human losses and enormous material damage. The thoughts and prayers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its citizens are with you during these difficult times.

I would like to congratulate the Republic of Korea's Permanent Representative, Amb. Sang Wook HAM on the election as the President of the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Allow me to assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation during this Conference.

Also, I would like to welcome and congratulate the Cook Islands and the Federal Republic of Somalia for becoming members of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Allow me to extend our appreciation and gratitude to IAEA Director General Grossi for his able leadership of the Agency during challenging times. We are thankful for the Agency's continued effectiveness and ability to continue its work despite 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.

I would like to point out that Bosnia and Herzegovina is open for cooperation on finding the best solution with Republic of Croatia about building a landfill near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina and the area of the "UNA" Nature Park, a

solution which will be acceptable to both countries, especially considering environmental protection.

We emphasize that it concerns the disposal of all institutional radioactive waste that is currently on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, as well as 50% of the low- and medium-level radioactive waste from the "Krško" Nuclear Power Plant in Slovenia. Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its opinion on the latest Environmental Impact Study (from 2023) in a timely manner.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the 51st session held on June 10, 2024., adopted the Information on determining the criteria for issuing a public call for the selection of an international law office for legal consulting services in connection with the cross-border procedure of the environmental impact study regarding the planned storage of radioactive waste at the location of Trgovska Gora.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Andrej Plenković, stated in March 2024 that "until 2028, nothing will happen when it comes to the disposal of radioactive waste at the Trgovska gora location, because it was agreed with Slovenia that everything will remain as it is now".

Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Republic Croatia will continue with activities to find the best solution related to this issue.

Everything that poses a risk to people's health, environment and nature needs to be examined in the best interest of Republic Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We need to ensure the quality of information provided to both States as a decision makers to enable environmentally friendly decision by focusing on minimizing significant harmful impacts.

Prevention and control of significant adverse on people and environmental impacts in a comprehensive and transparent context, strengthening international cooperation on people and environmental al impact assessment and consideration of environmental factors at an early stage of the decision making process through the application of environmental impact assessment at all relevant administrative levels is the most important thing for Bosnia and Herzegovina in joint constructive dialogue with Republic Croatia in the spirit of good-neighbourly relations and respect for mutual interest in according ESPOO Convection.

Mr. President,

Since becoming a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina has greatly benefited from IAEA projects funded through the TCF, including equipment donations, knowledge transfer, and expertise acquisition. We

take immense pride in the achievements realized through our cooperation with the IAEA.

Thanks to the IAEA's support, Bosnia and Herzegovina established a modern regulatory body, unique in our country, dedicated to ensuring radiation and nuclear safety for nearly 15 years. This body has been instrumental in passing regulations and implementing measures to maintain high standards in the safe and secure management of radioactive sources. This year, our regulatory body will celebrate the 15th anniversary.

Last year, we experienced a leadership change within the regulatory body. However, the new leadership remains committed to fulfilling Bosnia and Herzegovina's international obligations and adhering to international standards and recommendations on nuclear safety and security.

In the near future, regulatory body will focus on implementing the recommendations from the IAEA ORPAS and IRRS missions and addressing challenges related to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. Although Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have nuclear facilities, we recognize the importance of these international instruments and encourage other countries with similar nuclear capacities to adhere to them.

Furthermore, we stress the importance of all countries, whether nuclear or not, ratifying the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment. Alongside ratifying these international instruments, Bosnia and Herzegovina is implementing its Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan to enhance its nuclear security regime and contribute to global nuclear security.

In addition to endorsing the IAEA's mandate in nuclear safety and security, we also support its role in promoting nuclear safeguards and verification. Bosnia and Herzegovina is fully committed to regularly meeting its obligations concerning safeguards.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to being a valuable member of the IAEA by implementing key international treaties, standards, and recommendations. We are confident that by collaborating with the IAEA and its member states, we can effectively address the challenges before us.

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 68th regular session of the General Conference.

Thank you for your attention.