

## **Statement of the Republic of Cyprus at the General Debate**

### **68th IAEA General Conference**

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**Mr President,**

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the Sixty-Eighth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Cypriot delegation. I would also like to congratulate the newest members of the Organization, the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Cook Islands.

**Mr President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

The Republic of Cyprus fully aligns itself with the official statement of the European Union, as published on the IAEA's official website. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for the Agency's activities in the areas of non-proliferation, the strengthening of the international nuclear safety and security framework, safeguards implementation, and the promotion of international cooperation. We also commend the IAEA Director General and his team for their commendable work during these challenging times.

**Mr President,**

It has now been more than two and a half years since Russia initiated its full-scale invasion of Ukraine and unlawfully seized Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). These actions constitute clear violations of the UN Charter, international law, as well as violations of the core principles outlined in the IAEA Statute.

**Mr President,**

As a contracting party to all major international treaties and conventions related to nuclear safety and security, the Republic of Cyprus assures its full commitment to their implementation. Cyprus places a high value on the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme in promoting the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and recognizes its vital role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over the years, Cyprus has benefited from projects funded by the Technical Cooperation Fund, particularly in terms of knowledge transfer and the acquisition of expertise. Cyprus has also co-organized several IAEA events within the country and remains committed to continuing this collaboration. At present, Cyprus is engaged in three national projects and intends to continue participating in future project cycles.

Over the past 12 months, the IAEA has provided Cyprus with experts to enhance our capacity in the cradle-to-grave management of sealed radioactive sources. Furthermore, the IAEA has supplied us with equipment to improve the management of disused radioactive sources.

During the past year, the Regulatory Authority of Cyprus, with support from the IAEA, has organized international meetings focused on safety. Additionally, Cypriot entities have participated in numerous IAEA meetings, conferences, and international exercises. We have also broadened our bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries and strengthened our Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) capabilities.

**Mr President,**

The Republic of Cyprus does not operate any nuclear power or research reactors, nor any other nuclear installations, and its future energy plans do not include the use of nuclear energy. Nonetheless, we recognize the crucial role that the IAEA's Nuclear Safety and Security Standards play in ensuring global nuclear safety and security.

Cyprus supports all measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and security and improving the application of safeguards at the international level. We acknowledge the significant work carried out by the Agency and its Member States on nuclear safety and security. Therefore, we urge all IAEA Member States to ensure the highest levels of safety and security for nuclear facilities in order to protect their own countries, their neighboring countries, and the wider world.

International and regional cooperation is essential for nuclear safety and security, particularly given the transboundary nature of nuclear events. In this regard, transparency, public information and consultation with neighbouring countries that might be affected by a release of radioactivity from nuclear installations are vital, from the design stage through the entire lifecycle of nuclear facilities.

Cyprus strongly supports the IAEA's global efforts in providing assistance and verification concerning radioactive material releases into the environment, maintaining safeguards, and ensuring the safety and security of nuclear reactors and radioactive materials, particularly in areas of unrest.

In conclusion, I wish to once again express our sincere appreciation for the work of the Director General Grossi and all the staff of IAEA, and to reaffirm

our confidence and support in the IAEA's efforts towards peace and development.

**Thank you, Mr President.**