

**Statement of the Republic of Moldova at the 68th Session of the IAEA
General Conference
Vienna, 16-20 September 2024**

Mr. President,

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

Mr. President,

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

We meet at a critical juncture, marked by multiple crises, including the ongoing military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. This blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter poses serious threats to nuclear safety and security in the region. The illegal occupation of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) continues to heighten these risks, and Moldova remains gravely concerned about the deteriorating nuclear safety situation.

We commend Director General Grossi for his leadership and the tireless work of the IAEA in ensuring the safety of nuclear installations in these difficult circumstances. Moldova strongly supports the Agency's efforts to monitor and report on the situation, and we join the international community in calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Russian military forces from ZNPP and all other nuclear facilities in Ukraine.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Moldova remains fully committed to strengthening the global nuclear security architecture. We believe that the IAEA's safeguards system plays a crucial role in promoting the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and we continue to advocate for the universalization of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols.

Moreover, the Republic of Moldova remains deeply committed to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, which plays an essential role in enhancing our national capabilities in key areas such as nuclear safety, radiation protection, and the

peaceful uses of nuclear technology. This programme has provided Moldova with vital technical assistance and access to expertise, enabling us to improve our regulatory frameworks and better protect public health and the environment.

In the current Technical Cooperation cycle, Moldova has actively participated in projects focused on human health, particularly in the field of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine, where we are working to improve cancer treatment and diagnostics. Additionally, we have made significant progress in radioactive waste management, an area of high priority for our country, through national projects that support the safe handling, storage, and eventual disposal of radioactive materials.

As we look forward to the 2026-2027 Technical Cooperation cycle, Moldova has submitted two new national projects aimed at further strengthening our capabilities. The first project focuses on enhancing the management of radioactive waste, with the goal of improving safety standards in line with international best practices. The second project addresses nuclear applications in healthcare, aimed at expanding our national capacities in nuclear medicine and diagnostics, which will have a direct and positive impact on the health of our citizens.

In addition to our national projects, Moldova is also actively participating in regional and interregional projects. These initiatives allow us to share knowledge and best practices with other countries, while benefiting from the collective expertise of the international community. Moldova continues to engage in multilateral efforts to strengthen nuclear security, particularly in combating the illicit trafficking of radioactive materials, where we have collaborated with IAEA, EU, and U.S. initiatives to implement detection systems at border checkpoints and to provide training for front-line officers.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the IAEA, as well as to our international partners, such as the European Union, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, and SIDA, whose support has been instrumental in advancing Moldova's nuclear security and safety agenda. Their assistance has been crucial in helping us meet the objectives outlined in our National Strategy for Radioactive Waste Management, including the decommissioning of the RADON-type radioactive waste disposal facility.

Moldova looks forward to further cooperation under the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, which not only strengthens national capacities but also fosters regional collaboration and international solidarity in the pursuit of nuclear safety, security, and development.

Mr. President,

Moldova remains committed to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology in areas such as health, agriculture, and environmental protection. We particularly appreciate the role of nuclear technology in addressing the challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Moldova welcomes the IAEA's ongoing efforts to support member states in harnessing the potential of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate Moldova's strong support for the IAEA's mandate and assure you of our continued cooperation in promoting nuclear safety, security, and the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Thank you, Mr. President.