



**Government of Montenegro
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION
Address of Ms. Marijeta Barjaktarović Lanzardi,
State Secretary and the Head of Delegation
on the occasion of
the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
16–20 September 2024, Vienna, Austria
MONTENEGRO STATEMENT**

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the very beginning, allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your appointment as the Chairperson of the 68th General Conference.

We are convinced that under your guidance and leadership, all of us will be able to reach a fruitful conclusion of our deliberations, to build on our shared interests and find ways to overcome those issues that divide us.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Allow me, Mr. President, to address you in my national capacity and highlight few key issues of particular importance to my Country.

Mr. President,

The IAEA has already made an invaluable contribution to global peace and security and overall scientific development throughout the years.

The response of the Agency, in accordance of its mandate, to the key global challenges we have been facing has only proven the value and the indispensable role that the IAEA plays across sectors and fields. These range from health and food issues, energy crisis and climate change, to the contribution of the IAEA to the compromised geopolitical stability and security, most notably today with respect to the highly precarious situation in Ukraine.

We are extremely worried about the continuous threats to nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine, especially at the illegally seized NPP Zaporizhzhya site and the devastating consequences we could all face in case of a nuclear accident. Therefore, Montenegro's position has been clear from the outset, aligning time and

time again itself with the EU resolutions, declarations, and statements, unequivocally condemning Russia's unjustified aggression on Ukraine.

Commitment, diligence and valorous efforts of Director General Grossi and his team to ameliorate situation on the site, contributing to the world's nuclear safety and security go beyond the phrase. We have a full trust in your work and guidance for the upcoming period in all activities under IAEA.

Mr. President,

Montenegro strongly support activities under the IAEA mandate, its structures and platforms, regulatory norms, standards and guidelines, its technical assistance programs, its **laboratories**.

Montenegro is extremely grateful to the IAEA Secretariat and all the staff who work with utmost professional and expert rigor to deliver results to us in an unbiased, objective and independent manner. We highly appreciate this relentless dedication, and we rely on it to ensure that our safety and security is protected.

Mr. President,

Montenegro is a country without nuclear industry with use of ionizing radiation in medicine, environment, biotechnology, cultural heritage preservation, education and research. The centralized radioactive waste storage facility in Montenegro has been established with support of the IAEA and became operational since 2012. Having said, Montenegro is aware of the importance of the proper use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as well as, the need to continuously improve high-level of radiation and nuclear safety and security worldwide.

The Government of Montenegro has established strategic, legislative and regulatory framework for radiation and nuclear safety and security, nuclear liability and safeguards. In the light of legislation, it is important to highlight that Montenegro is party to all international legally binding and non-binding instruments to whom depositary is Director General of the IAEA.

Montenegro expressed readiness to implement the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and Supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, and also the Supplement Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources.

Mr. President,

I am glad to share with you that in May this year, the Parliament of Montenegro has adopted the **new Law on Ionizing Radiation Protection, Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security**, which regulates the protection of life and health of people and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation, import, export and transit

of sources of ionizing radiation and nuclear materials, their transport, management of radioactive waste, as well as other issues of importance for radiation and nuclear safety and security.

Mr. President,

Bearing in mind today's joined threats, in order to strengthen national nuclear security regime, the national workshop was held last week in Podgorica **to update and develop the new Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan (INSSP), supported by IAEA.**

Since the last GC, we have completed the document „**Disaster Risk Management Capability Assessment of Montenegro**“, presenting a detailed analysis of the technical, administrative and financial capacities including radiation and nuclear aspect.

During 2024 **the Draft of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the period 2025 - 2030 with the Action Plan for the period 2025-2026 has been developed** which will be submitted to the Government by the end of this year for final adoption, consisting all risks including radiation and nuclear.

Bearing in mind the geopolitical situation in the view of nuclear safety and security, the **Working Team for coordination and monitoring of the state of radioactivity continued its work during 2024**, whose members are at the same time members of the team for managing the system for risk assessment and forecasting (modelling) in case of radiation and nuclear accidents - JRODOS, which are put into 24/7 mode.

Mr. President,

Montenegro takes this opportunity to emphasize that it is committed to continue to strengthen regulatory infrastructure to implement activities such as: enhancing human capacities, conditioning of remaining sources, exploring possibilities for reuse and recycling of DSRS, developing of Analysis on the further management of disused sealed radioactive sources and radioactive waste.

As a small and, by Constitution, non-nuclear state, Montenegro has benefited substantively from the fruitful cooperation with the IAEA, through comprehensive and wide-ranging technical assistance programmes. The Country Programme Framework for Cooperation between Montenegro and the IAEA, for the period 2022-2027, defined new priorities and deepened avenues of our joint cooperation. We strongly support the IAEA's global initiatives such as ZODIAC, NUTEC and its science component and the Rays of Hope, as well as Atoms4Food. As the Country with significant water potential, Montenegro highly appreciates the IAEA support in the field of underground and surface water activities.

Montenegro is firmly committed to giving its utmost contribution to the successful implementation of these and other initiatives within the IAEA. In this regard, I would like to use this opportunity to express our commitment to contribute to the Technical

Assistance Fund for 2025, as well as to other joint activities, especially in the field of human health, particularly cancer therapy treatment. Moreover, by the end of this year, Montenegro will host, with the IAEA support, two events in the field of human health and the veterinary medicine as well.

Let me assure you of the full support of the delegation of Montenegro during this week.

I Thank you!

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