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Republic of Türkiye

IAEA 68. GENERAL CONFERENCE

Dear President, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a real honor for me to address on the occasion of the sixty-eighth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

I am quite confident that this conference will bring fruitful contributions to nuclear industry. I would like to thank Director General Mr. Grossi for his relentless effort and dedication in promoting nuclear safety and security. Türkiye also recognizes the Agency's pivotal role in fostering global nuclear cooperation.

Our national energy strategy prioritizes sustainable development and energy security, with the aim to reach carbon neutrality by 2053. Nuclear energy is essential in this context.

Over the next two decades our electricity demand is expected to grow 4% annually. To meet this growing demand, Türkiye will prioritize more power generation from renewable resources, and nuclear energy will be added to our energy mix as a base load.

As we continue to enhance our nuclear capacity, in line with our long-term National Energy Plan, we aim to commission 7.2 GW of nuclear power plants by 2035 and 20 GW by 2050, including SMRs.

I would like to mention briefly the vision we have set forward regarding our nuclear goals;

The Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant will contribute a total capacity of 4.8 GW with its four reactors, followed by plans to commission a second and third site.

We advocate for nuclear energy as part of a 'better future'. That's why we emphasize the need to remove all barriers, such as trade and financial restrictions and sanctions on the industry. These barriers not only slow down technological progress and economic development but also postpone our ability to achieve global sustainability goals.

It is essential that international policies support, rather than hinder, the responsible development and deployment of nuclear energy. In light of the decisions taken at COP28, Türkiye firmly believes that there must be a significant increase in nuclear capacity to achieve the ambitious targets set forth in the Paris Agreement.

We appreciate the Agency's efforts in advancing nuclear technologies and its support for member states in harnessing these technologies.

Dear President, Distinguished Delegates,

Türkiye remains fully committed and will continue to have close cooperation with the IAEA to the goal of ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

In closing, let me reiterate Türkiye's unwavering dedication to our partnership with the Agency and I extend my best wishes for the success of this General Conference. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts to enhance nuclear energy for worldwide prosperity.

Thank you.