



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the 59th General Conference of the
IAEA**

Vienna, 14 September 2015

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland‡, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino.
2. First of all, let me congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of this 59th General Conference. The EU would like to thank the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial work, and to assure them of the EU's unfailing support. The EU furthermore welcomes the applications for membership by Antigua and Barbuda, Turkmenistan and Barbados.
3. The EU attaches great importance to the IAEA's core responsibilities in the field of non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and technical cooperation. We look forward to the General Conference having a focussed discussion on these areas of IAEA expertise.

Mr President,

4. The EU is fully committed to promoting universal adherence to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agreements. We regard the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and vital for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. We call upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states.
5. While the EU regrets that consensus could not be reached on a final document at this year's NPT Review Conference, we note with satisfaction the amount of strong support that was expressed for the Agency's work.

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

‡ Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

6. The EU reaffirms its support for the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and recalls the affirmation of its goals and objectives by the 2000 and the 2010 Review Conferences. The EU considers the 1995 Resolution valid until its goals and objectives are achieved. The EU deeply regrets that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems has not been convened. We maintain the view that dialogue and building confidence among all stakeholders is the only sustainable way to agree arrangements for a meaningful conference, to be attended by all States of the region as decided by the 2010 Review Conference. We also wish to record our appreciation to Ambassador Jaakko Laajava for his hard work and unstinting efforts as Facilitator.

Mr. President,

7. The IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. We underline the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance. The EU further recognises the serious proliferation challenges which continue to be a threat to international security, and the need to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions to them.
8. In this context, let me start on a positive note. The EU welcomes the historic agreement of 14 July between the E3/EU+3 and Iran on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in full conformity with NPT principles. On the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and the JCPOA, the EU fully supports the IAEA's long term mission of verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear related commitments for the full duration of these commitments. Its full implementation, which will be facilitated by the application of the Additional Protocol to Iran's Safeguards Agreement foreseen in the agreement, will provide the international community with the necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme and will contribute positively to regional and international peace and security.

9. The EU also looks forward to the full and timely implementation of the "Roadmap for the clarification of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme" agreed on 14 July between the IAEA and Iran. It is important that Iran cooperates fully with the Agency regarding Possible Military Dimensions, as agreed in the roadmap. The EU underlines that resolving all outstanding issues will be essential for implementing the comprehensive, negotiated long term settlement.
10. The EU has condemned the nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK as well as its threat of another nuclear test in outright violation of its international obligations, in particular under relevant UN Security Council Resolutions 1695, 1718, 1874, 2087 and 2094 that urge the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles programmes and return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards at an early date. The EU continues to attach the highest importance to maintaining an essential role for the IAEA in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme.

Mr President,

11. Recalling the resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 June 2011, which concluded that Syria is in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement, the EU urges Syria to cooperate promptly and transparently with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues including through concluding and implementing an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

12. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current verification standard and the EU continues to call for their universalisation without delay. In this respect, the EU welcomes the fact that Cambodia brought into force an Additional Protocol and Djibouti a comprehensive safeguards agreement with an Additional Protocol. The EU urges the remaining states which have not yet amended the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP), to accelerate their efforts.

The EU has firmly supported the continued evolution of safeguards as exemplified by the development of the State-level concept (SLC). The EU is convinced that consistent and universal application of the SLC further strengthens the efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA Safeguards System and thus contributes to global non-proliferation efforts.

13. For the EU, the close cooperation between EURATOM and the IAEA allows effective and efficient safeguards. The EU is actively supporting the Agency's safeguards system through the EC Safeguards Support Programme and through the Support Programmes of some of its Member States.

Mr. President,

14. The EU has allocated € 225 million over the period 2014 – 2020 for the promotion of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries, as further support to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
15. The EU attaches importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of the highest standards of nuclear safety promoted internationally. The Council of the European Union adopted last year a renewed Directive to strengthen the safety framework for nuclear installations. This Directive sets the objective of preventing accidents and, should they occur, mitigating the consequences and avoiding early and large radioactive releases. The Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety, adopted earlier this year by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety sets forth similar principles and we will give serious attention to the implementation of the decisions taken in the Declaration inter alia in the Review Meetings of the CNS.

Mr President,

16. In the framework of its strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the EU is actively supporting UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR 1887 as well as other international initiatives, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, and the Nuclear Security Summit process which contribute to strengthening nuclear security. Out of €260 million from EU Funds dedicated to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation worldwide, more than €100 million for the period 2014 - 2020 has been allocated to the EU's regional CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative. The EU strongly supports IAEA activities in

the areas of nuclear security and is, together with its Member States, among the main contributors to the Nuclear Security Fund. €40 million from EU funds and another 45 million from EU Member States were contributed to the Nuclear Security Fund to date, to the benefit of around 100 countries. We intend to continue to support the IAEA's work. The EU looks forward to the next IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security to take place in December 2016 and calls on all IAEA Member States to participate at high level.

17. The EU urges all States that have not yet done so, to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and to adhere to its 2005 Amendment. All EU Member States have now adhered to the 2005 amendment.
18. The EU remains firmly committed to the benefits of multilateral approaches and welcomes the recent signature by Kazakhstan and the IAEA of the Host State Agreement and the Board's approval of the Transit Agreement which are required for the establishment of the IAEA LEU bank. The EU supports this project with up to €25 million, of which we have already contributed €20 million for the purpose of acquiring the LEU once the project is fully operational.
19. The EU notes that projections for global installed nuclear power capacity indicate an increase by 2030, with different regional developments. Although these projections have been lowered since 2010, we note that nuclear power remains an important option for several member countries of the IAEA. Modernisation of existing nuclear power plants and construction of new ones continue in several regions of the world.
The EU welcomes the decision of the Director General to devote this year's Scientific Forum to "Atoms in Industry – Radiation Technology for Development."

Mr. President,

20. The EU and its Member States are strong supporters of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, including through the TC Fund and the Peaceful Uses Initiative, and are the second largest contributor to the TC Programme. We value the Agency's role in the responsible development of

the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of, inter alia, human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, preservation of cultural heritage, nuclear and radiation safety, and nuclear energy. We support the activities carried out by the Agency with regard to insect pest control and zoonotic diseases, as well as PACT to achieve sustainable cancer control capacity, in particular in low and middle income countries. The IAEA's Nuclear Sciences and Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf (NA Laboratories) contribute essential work in this respect and we welcome the Director General's initiative regarding the modernization of the NA Laboratories ("ReNuAL"). The European Union supports both the IAEA, and IAEA Member States, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, also through technical expertise and with a total amount of some € 150 million per year.

Finally Mr President,

The EU would like to assure you of its continuing strong support for the activities of the Agency.

I thank you.