



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

STATEMENT

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**TO THE 61st SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Vienna, 18 - 22 September, 2017

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure for me to join other distinguished speakers and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to extend to you my sincere congratulation on your election as the President of the 61st session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In wishing you successful accomplishment of your responsible task, I would like to assure you of the full support of the Macedonian Delegation.

I want to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Director General and the staff of the Secretariat of the Agency for their outstanding efforts and excellent work done in achieving the goals set during the 60th session of the General Conference and to compliment on approval of Mr. Amano's appointment to serve as the Director General another term. I would like to point out the important role of the Agency in verifying that the activities in the Member States are performed in peaceful purposes and in compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

I also want to welcome the application for membership of Grenada, which is on the agenda of the General Conference.

The Republic of Macedonia fully aligns with the EU statement and let me therefore to stress some issues of particular interest for my country.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

Safe and secure application of nuclear technologies for the benefit of human society and in accordance with the international standards and requirements should be stringently followed. The Republic of Macedonia fully subscribes to the need for a strong system of international safeguards to promote collective security. Faced with the growing complexity of global threats and challenges, the role of the Agency is becoming even more important. We will continue to count on the Agency to effectively deliver on its mandate for a safer and more prosperous world. We look forward to the contribution of the Agency towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, given the relevance of the nuclear science and technology in this regard. Republic of Macedonia will remain steadfast in contributing to the Agency's Atoms for Peace and Development mission.

Strongly oriented towards carrying out the process of integration into the European Union, my country is dedicated to meeting all the obligations from the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU with a particular emphasis on nuclear safety and safeguards.

The area of radiation and nuclear safety and security in the Republic of Macedonia is regulated by the **Law on Ionizing Radiation Protection and Safety**. The Law was promulgated in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia in 2002 and later amended in 2007 including more security provisions.

The Law regulates the system of control of all ionizing radiation sources, as well as the protection of population and environment against the exposure or potential exposure to ionizing radiation. The Law also regulates the management of radioactive and nuclear material, implementation of measures of radiation safety and nuclear security, as well as the management of radioactive waste and disused sealed radioactive sources.

According to the Law, the Radiation Safety Directorate is established as a single regulatory body, an independent governmental institution, having a status of legal person.

Regarding the international conventions in the relevant area, the Republic of Macedonia is party to all relevant conventions. In 2009, the Republic of Macedonia ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and submitted two national reports, and preparing the third one. In 2011, the

Amendments of the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material are ratified.

According to the obligations from the Law on ratification of the **Additional Protocol** to the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Radiation Safety Directorate submitted reports to the IAEA.

I would like to mention that on request of the Radiation Safety Directorate by the end of the year 2017 the first Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in the Republic of Macedonia will be realized. The objective of the mission is to assess the regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety in the Republic of Macedonia in regard to the IAEA standards.

Furthermore, the employees of the Radiation Safety Directorate continuously participated in trainings organized by the IAEA during 2017. The participation on the trainings strengthens the administrative capacities and the human resources of the Directorate by gaining knowledge in the relevant field

Mr. President,

Macedonia has significantly benefited from the fruitful cooperation with the IAEA. The Agency's expertise, training, education, and providing the necessary equipment are crucial in accomplishing the goals set in nuclear safeguards, safety and security, regulatory infrastructure, radiation medicine and diagnostics, cultural heritage, agriculture and many other fields. I avail myself of the opportunity to express appreciation for the Agency's assistance in the implementation of our National Technical Co-operation Program.

With substantial governmental support, a national Technical cooperation project for introducing Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in clinical practice is completed and in December 2015 was established University Institute for Positron-Emission Tomography as an independent institution. The PET centre has complete production capacity including cyclotron, three full GMP production laboratories, two for PET and one for therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals, two laboratories for quality control, research laboratory and complete clinical facility with one PET/CT and place for the second. The PET centre is ready for further introduction of new PET procedures and radiopharmaceuticals and development of the therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals and procedures in nuclear medicine. The inauguration of the Centre starting work with patients was done by the General Director of IAEA on May 26, 2017.

The priority sectors for nuclear development in the State had been tailored to highlight sectors where the IAEA's TC activities in the country can contribute within development priorities.

The ongoing projects in the project cycle 2016-2017 are in full compliance with our Country Programme Framework for the period 2013-2017. Republic of Macedonia has also been and still is participating extensively in regional and interregional TC projects in order to complement national activities dealing in particular with nuclear institution and human resource development, human health, radiation protection, and nuclear applications. In addition, the country has actively contributed to the TC programme by hosting workshops, scientific visits, fellowships, and by offering its expertise to other Member States such as in the areas of nuclear security, human health, food safety, and veterinary medicine.

With regards to the next Technical Cooperation Project Cycle 2018-2019, four National project concepts have been positively assessed and received a recommendation by the Agency's Secretariat for their further development into Project Designs. Two of the new project concepts are in the field of medicine, one is in the field of environmental radioactivity monitoring, and the fourth one refers to the Application of Ionizing Irradiations in Nanotechnology for Environmental, Energy and Health purposes.

My country gives full support to the Annual Report of the Agency for 2016 and to the Budget planned for 2018.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

While fully sharing the importance of the Agency's work, let me express our strong support for the IAEA commitment to continue its activities aimed at further expansion of the use of nuclear energy for the benefit of humanity, to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime and improve international security. Republic of Macedonia will continue with its active partnership for the future IAEA activities in order to fulfill its statutory obligations.

Thank you, Mr. President