



## G R E E C E

### **Statement by Mrs. Chryssoula Aliferi, Ambassador to Austria and Resident Representative of Greece to the IAEA 59th General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna, September 14-18, 2015**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Greek delegation I would like to convey our sincere congratulations to Ambassador Formica [and yourself] for having been elected to the important office of President [and Vice President] of the 59<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the IAEA and to assure you of our full support.

I would also like to join other Delegations in welcoming Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados as well as Turkmenistan, as new members of the Agency.

Greece, as a member of the European Union, fully associates itself with the statement delivered on Monday by Luxemburg, the member-state which holds the current rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In this national statement, I wish to highlight the following issues of particular importance to Greece:

Mr. President,

A corner stone of Greece's policy is respect for International Law and the United Nations system as a whole.

We highly value the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency which promote international cooperation in the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and which prevent nuclear proliferation and contribute to nuclear disarmament. We express our sincere appreciation to the Director General Mr. Amano and the IAEA Secretariat for the competence, dedication and professionalism shown in pursuing the Agency's goals.

Greece supports the cautious, **peaceful uses of nuclear power**. While this kind of power is not part of *our* national energy mix, we acknowledge all States' sovereign right to opt for peaceful nuclear energy, provided they fully adhere to and respect the international Non-Proliferation regime, Safeguards Agreements and the IAEA Safety Standards and Security Architecture.

Human safety is of paramount importance.

In this respect, Greece would like to commend the IAEA's huge effort in the preparation of the **report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident** and looks forward to lessons learned being reflected in the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety beyond 2015 and in the pertinent programmes of the Agency Departments, in order to meet or rather avoid, if possible, similar challenges and risks in the future.

We believe that **environmental safety considerations** should always be taken into account, especially in regions with dynamic seismic and earthquake activity, as the experience of recent nuclear accidents and disasters has made evident.

Mr. President,

Greece recognizes the Agency as the leading authority in **Nuclear Verification**, in providing assurance in view of compliance by States of their Nuclear Safeguards obligations and in resolving all cases of non-compliance.

Greece warmly welcomes the historic agreement reached last July between the **E3/EU+3 and Iran** on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as well as the Roadmap agreed between the **IAEA and Iran**. Political will on all sides and hard work made this success possible. It has been a success of multilateralism and diplomacy and indeed a great success of the Agency and the United Nations system as a whole. We are grateful to all those who made this Agreement possible. Its full and timely implementation by all will bring more confidence and trust in the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy and thus contribute to peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Mr. President,

We sincerely hope that next year, during the important 60th IAEA anniversary, we will be able to celebrate more good news in areas where little progress if any has been made until now. At this 59th IAEA General Conference, we need to repeat a few important issues:

-We express our serious concern about the proliferation activities of the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, as well as its continuous provocation and violation of its international obligations.

-We strongly believe in the universality of the **Non Proliferation Treaty** and urge all states that have not yet done so to join the Treaty. The ratification of the **CTBT** for the comprehensive ban of nuclear tests is another necessary step towards gradual disarmament.

-Furthermore, we can only share other member states' disappointment that neither the **2015 NPT Conference** has made progress nor a **Middle East Zone** free of Weapons of Mass Destruction has come closer to its convening. The latter despite the efforts of the Finnish Facilitator Ambassador Laajava. We continue to fully support further efforts towards the establishment of such a Zone and to believe that the application of comprehensive **IAEA Safeguards** to all nuclear material, facilities and activities will create confidence among all states, promoting peace, security and prosperity.

Mr. President,

**At a national level**, Greece attaches particular importance to the work of the IAEA -in pursuing highest level of **Nuclear Safety and Security** worldwide,

-in helping Member States to increase their capabilities in the area of **Nuclear Sciences and Technology** in order to promote scientific, technological and economic development and

-in supporting Member States through the **Technical Cooperation Programme**, particularly in strengthening **safety and security** in all aspects of the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Greece adheres to all relevant IAEA Agreements and fully support the Agency's pertinent projects including, of course, the Agency's cooperation with the

European Union. Greece actively participated to all relevant IAEA and other international Conferences. Among other we participated, here in Vienna:

-last February, to the *Diplomatic Conference*, subscribing to the *Vienna Declaration*, which provides clear guidance to the implementation of the principles of the Convention on Nuclear Safety,

-last May, to the fifth *Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*, satisfying the relevant requirements and

-last December to the *3rd International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons* hosted by Austria.

Greece reaffirms its strong commitment to increased **bilateral cooperation** with the IAEA. We would like to express our gratitude for the Director General's decision to invite a Greek expert to serve as member of *AdSec*, the DG's advisory group on Nuclear Security.

We also continue to contribute to the development of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series' documents and fundamentals, through the participation of another Greek expert in the *IAEA Nuclear Security Guidance Committee*.

Greek scientists were invited to participate in several expert missions, including IRRS missions, and in various scientific groups and workshops in the area of Nuclear Safety. Additionally, 5 international fellows were hosted by Greece for on-the-job training in this area. We actively assist IAEA's TC activities, through participation in expert missions, scientific visits and hosting fellowships in our laboratories.

In the framework of the Long Term Agreement on Nuclear Safety, signed between IAEA and the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE), we hosted 13 participants from 10 different Member States, for the Post Graduate Course (PGEC) on Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radioactive Sources, for 6 months in Athens, until March 2015.

We are looking forward in hosting, in the coming weeks, the follow-up Education and Training Appraisal Mission (EduTA) that will assist us in evaluating the programme implemented so far, as well as, the future activities already planned in the field of Education and Training in radiation protection and Nuclear Safety.

In the field of Nuclear Security, and in the terms of the Practical Arrangements between IAEA and the Greek Government, Greece hosted and co-organized in 2015: one technical visit with 16 participants from South Africa, one regional training course with 20 participants from South European Countries and Turkey and one international training course with 47 participants from Asian, African and Latin American countries. Additionally, one workshop on the transport of radioactive material in Mediterranean coastal states and associated shipping states was also organized in Athens.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the Greek Government's strong support to the important mission of the IAEA and to express Greece's commitment to continue its active cooperation with the Agency.-

Thank You Mr. President