

59<sup>th</sup> Annual Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference  
Vienna, 14-18 September 2015

**MONTENEGRO**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

**Prof. Sanja Vlahovic, PhD, Minister of Science**

Mister President,

I have the honour of conveying to you and to all the distinguished participants at the 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency the best wishes and the cordial greetings on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Allow me, to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to H.E Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General and the Secretariat of the Agency for their dedicated work for the benefit of all member states. The Agency has achieved the great goals in global nuclear cooperation over the years since its foundation in 1957. It has greatly contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as towards social, economic and environmental development through the nuclear application. We are proud that Montenegro, as one of the six republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, was one of the founders of the International Atomic Energy Agency and that is, through this, gave its contribution to the implementation of a peaceful mission of the Agency "Atoms for Peace".

Allow me also to use this opportunity to warmly welcome the membership of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan, as new member states of the Agency.

Mister/Madame President, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

Even though Montenegro is a Agency Member State, as an independent Country, since October 2006, we came an intensive and long way since our first General Conference in 2007. Some important developments marked the previous period, both in view of creating the preconditions for full implementation of highest international and EU standards and in their implementation on the national level. First of all, negotiation process with the European Union was launched in June, 2012. Chapter 25 “Science and Research” was opened and provisionally closed in December, the same year. Within the section concerning nuclear sciences and their applications we referred fully to our positive experience with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Montenegro adopted the new Country Programme Framework (CPF) for cooperation with the Agency, with five (5) national priority areas for cooperation as follows: Nuclear Sciences and Applications, Sustainable Development and the Environment, Health, Radiation Protection, Nuclear Safety and Security and Human Resource Development. Document is scheduled for the mid-term period 2014-20, the time frame which coincide with the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020” in which we participate on an equal base with EU countries, starting from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Following recommendation of Strategy “Europe 2020” and Flagship Initiative “Innovation Union”, Montenegro will draft in early 2016 new Strategy for Scientific Research activity while significant progress is reflected in the adoption of the Law innovations that are expected soon and Law on Scientific Research activity which in force. We will strive to harmonize our future cooperation with the Agency with our accession to the EU.

Montenegro is small non nuclear Country, defined as an “Ecological State” by the first article of its Constitution, which means that all major decisions and steps to be undertaken in the Country should be at first place considered in that sense, from an environmental sustainability standpoint. Taking this into account, I assure you that the Government of Montenegro does recognise the significance of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency for Sustainable

Development and Environmental issues and enhancement of the quality of life for the Montenegrin citizens. Till now the Agency has extended valuable technical and expert assistance for creation of conditions for enhancing the environmental protection efforts and thus enabled a comprehensive and dynamic development of Montenegro based on the principle of sustainability. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Agency Secretariat for the comprehensive/wide-ranging technical assistance extended in drafting the legislation and establishing institutional framework based on the international standards and principles. This is especially confirmed Montenegro's membership in the Convention on Nuclear Safety thus in the best possible way protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation. We are fully aware that further activities in the field of legislation will strengthen our cooperation with the IAEA and the EU as well.

Aware that the application of nuclear technologies in medicine is still a significant tool to enhance human health, in the cycle 2012-2013 and onwards, the national technical cooperation programme focuses on upgrading QA/QC system in the diagnostic radiology for National Programme for Breast Screening. Allow to express our outmost appreciation of the IAEA support provided in the radiology and oncology field as well as in improvement of Montenegro's nuclear medicine capacities. As the Government of Montenegro recognizes medicine as one of the priorities at the national level, we are confident in providing full support and cooperation with the IAEA on this issue in the coming period.

Since 2007, Montenegro has successfully participated in numerous Technical Cooperation projects, national, regional and interregional, and has benefitted significantly from it in the areas of strengthening the capacities in the field of medicine, upgrading the regulatory infrastructure (legal framework and Regulatory Body), environmental. I avail myself of this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Technical Cooperation Department for Europe for their assistance in implementing Montenegrin national technical cooperation

programmes. Moreover, I would like to thank Technical Cooperation Department in advance for all further support to Montenegro, primarily in three national project proposals for next cycle. Our special gratitude also goes to the Department for Nuclear Science and Applications with which Montenegro has intensified cooperation recently, following the first priority in our Country Program Framework.

We are committed to further strengthen our national security framework by implementing international instruments and fostering cooperation in preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials and terrorism. Montenegro takes part in numerous non-proliferation initiatives, one of which is the Programme for the establishment of a system for knowledge management in the area of illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances and weapons in our region. For fostering international and EU cooperation, new Strategies and Laws in this field will be adopted.

Mr. President,

With a status of candidate country, Montenegro fully aligns with the EU Statement. Please allow me, to express the readiness of all relevant Montenegrin authorities and institutions to continue to actively contribute to the Agency's work as well as in the implementation of the activities envisaged in the decisions of this Conference.

Thank you!