



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE OSCE, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN VIENNA**

Statement by

Ambassador Dubravka Plejic Markovic, Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia, at the 62nd General Conference of the IAEA

Madame President,

The Republic of Croatia fully aligned itself with the EU statement and would like to add few considerations in its national capacity;

Allow me to begin with congratulating you on election as the President of 62nd General Conference. We are pleased to see another female Chair presiding over this Conference.

Let me, at the outset, state that Croatia is committed to further contribute to strengthening and promoting multilateral efforts in the field of nuclear non-

proliferation and disarmament. In this vain, we would like to express our support for the NPT and CTBT. As was evidenced during past turbulent year, while multilateral architecture was pressured and challenged, benefits of multilateral approaches in parallel outweighed its constraints.

Concerning the JCPoA we fully support important and critical work of the Agency and will continue to support its mission. We encourage further dialogue between the Agency and Iran in verifying and monitoring implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments. We shall continue working with our EU partners and wider international community to ensure that the Agreement is maintained.

We take note of positive developments and engagement on the Korean Peninsula which is encouraging and needs to be sustained through serious engagement of the DPRK on tasks ahead.

In continuation, I would like to say few words concerning our national activities. Croatia has been developing nuclear energy program for almost 50 years. This program is now jointly run with neighboring Slovenia. The NPP Krško, co-owned and jointly run by both countries with its stable operation generates positive side effects, both economic and ecological.

Furthermore, in our surrounding there are 40 nuclear plants with 80-something active nuclear reactors. All of this is greatly impacting on our national and

international activities: with safety, security and non-proliferation representing our policy guidelines.

Nuclear energy continues to play a major role in stable and carbon free supply of electricity to citizens and industry alike. These activities bear marks of strict adherence to the highest safety and security standards.

In our bilateral and regional nuclear co-operation, focus is on our continuous engagement with neighboring countries (Hungary and Slovenia) in framework of the Agreements for the Early Exchange of Information in the Event of a Radiological Emergency.

Additional agreements on communication lines between regulatory bodies with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia that will regulate co-operation in radiology and nuclear security are under considerations.

Madam Chair,

my country implements system of Integrated Safeguards, all nuclear material is used exclusively for peaceful purposes. As the EU member, Croatia has a status of *Side Letter State* regarding the implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement.

Let me also point out, that at the margins of this General Conference an arrangement - between the Croatian State Office (for Radiological and Nuclear Safety) and the

United States' Nuclear Regulatory Commission (for the Exchange of Technical Information and Cooperation in Nuclear Safety Matters) - was signed just while ago covering period of five years. This step will further strengthen existing co-operation which spans over several decades.

Regarding our national regulatory framework, the IAEA's recommendations stemming from the Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission resulted in harmonizing necessary legislation.

In conducting the Project cycle 2018/2019, five national technical cooperation projects have been implemented, each covering implementation of different techniques in the field of medicine. For the next biennial project, cycle 2020/2021, three national and several additional regional projects have been proposed. Croatia hosted several fellowships and scientific visits with participants from Azerbaijan, Montenegro and Saudi Arabia as well.

In conclusion, Madame President, let me stress once again that Croatia strongly supports endeavors of the Agency and Director General Amano in discharging of his important duties in a challenging security environment.

Last, but not least important, we would appreciate more efforts in gender mainstreaming and women's meaningful participation in the Agency. This could serve as a positive model for attracting more women in the science.

Thank you.