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**MONTENEGRO
STATEMENT
by**

MSc Ivana Vojinović, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism

Madam President,

Allow me to join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election as the President of this year's IAEA General Conference.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, I would like to express our highest appreciation to the IAEA in achieving the great results in global nuclear cooperation and maintaining of international peace and security since its foundation. It is a great honour and a privilege to address you today on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Although Montenegro fully aligns with the EU Statement please allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Montenegro is an IAEA member only since October 2006 and since then we have made a long way since our first General Conference in 2007. Some important developments marked the previous years, primarily concerning the creation of the preconditions on the national level for the implementation of highest both international and EU standards in the nuclear safety and security as well as radiation protection field. Many activities were dedicated to practical field, especially in establishing first central storage of radioactive waste in which we managed to store and almost to condition all radioactive sources. These important activities were supported by International Atomic Energy Agency through national and interregional projects under the technical cooperation department and I would like to use this opportunity to thank the IAEA for the comprehensive technical assistance provided in the field of establishing and further developing of the regulatory infrastructure framework, based on the international standards and principles.

Allow me to assure you that the Government of Montenegro highly values the cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which contributes to the enhancement of the quality of life of our citizens. I would like to express our outmost appreciation of the IAEA support provided in the oncological field, as well as in improvement of Montenegro's nuclear medicine capacities.

Regarding the negotiations with the European Union and Chapter 15-Energy, we are well prepared to participate in the next phase of negotiations in the area of nuclear safety and security, and radiation protection. Currently we are in the process of drafting the new Law on ionizing radiation protection, radiation and nuclear safety and security which will be in line with IAEA safety standards and EU Acquis for better now and future of Montenegrin population.

Montenegro has become a formal member of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) on 5 June 2017 and in the light of these important developments, the opportunities for the amplification of our cooperation with the Agency are constantly improving.

We are committed to further strengthen our national safety and security framework by implementing international instruments and fostering cooperation in medical sector, upgrading the regulatory framework infrastructure and enhancing the level of the environmental protection and radiation protection. Montenegro especially put its attention on the strengthening of the national security framework by implementing international instruments and fostering cooperation in preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials and terrorism and takes part in numerous non-proliferation initiatives and knowledge management in the area of illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances and weapons in Southeast Europe and Caucasus.

I would like to inform you that Government of Montenegro first officially supported Initiative for the establishment of a South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies, aiming to promote collaboration between science, technology and industry, but also to provide platforms for the education and training of young scientists and engineers based on knowledge and technology transfer from European laboratories like CERN and others.

Finally, please allow me to express the readiness of all relevant authorities and institutions of Montenegro to continue to actively contribute to our partnership and to Agency's work as well as in all activities projected in the decisions of this Conference.

At the end I would like to use this opportunity to warmly welcome the new Agency Member States.

Thank you!