

**Statement by the Albanian Delegation
to the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology:
Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges
As delivered by the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Adhurim RESULI
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the IAEA
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Dear Co-Chairs

Allow me to join previous speakers to congratulate you upon election as Presidents of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: “Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges”. Assuring you of Albania’s full support and cooperation, I’m confident that under your guidance this Conference will accomplish its objectives successfully.

**Dear Co-Chairs,
Director General,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Albania fully aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union, but I would like to make few remarks in a national capacity.

The IAEA has been playing an important role in strengthening science, technology and innovation; in addressing the current challenges and meeting the common goals of achieving sustainable development and in protecting the environment in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As we stressed during the General Conference of the IAEA on September this year, Albania welcomed the organization of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology in Vienna and we are looking forward to the discussion on the contribution, integration and use of nuclear science, technology and applications for peaceful uses, as well as on the importance of the Agency’s TC Program in this regard.

The Albanian Government gives high importance and priority to nuclear science and technology.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Albania recognizes the role of the IAEA’s Technical Cooperation programme as a major mechanism to support Member States in building, strengthening and maintaining their capacity to use nuclear technology in a safe, secure and sustainable manner. *We underscore* that the TC programme should align with Member State needs and be designed and delivered in a way to

maximize synergies across the IAEA and utilize its resources efficiently and effectively.

We encourage all Member States to demonstrate their strong commitment and shared responsibility to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation programme; and, in this regard, we emphasize that pledging and payment of Technical Cooperation Fund shares by all Member States in full and on time would contribute to making resources available to meet the objectives mandated in the Statute.

Albania is proud of its excellent cooperation with the Agency in successfully implementing its national technical cooperation programme. Over the years, the IAEA's technical cooperation programme has triggered a significant improvement of diagnostic and therapeutic cancer services and, in parallel, has supported the establishment of the necessary radiation safety infrastructure.

The "Mother Teresa" University Hospital in Tirana has now a new modern radiotherapy centre, which is also running a modern nuclear medicine service. This centre of excellence for the entire country would not have been possible without the Agency's contribution, the sustained commitment of the Albanian government and the dedication of the staff, trained also with the support of the Agency.

Albania notes with gratitude the specific, continuous and substantial contribution that the Agency has made through the years to a number of development sectors in my country. I wish to highlight, in particular, its important contribution to human health, the environment, agriculture and the strengthening of regulatory authorities.

Albania has signed the new Country Programme Framework with the Agency for the period 2018-2023, which reflect the following priority areas:

- Human Health, including nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, medical imaging and medical physics,
- Natural resources, exploration and identification,
- Environment protection and conservation,
- Food production and agriculture,
- Radiation Protection, Safety and Security.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to the Agency for its contribution to these achievements. In particular, I wish to commend the dedication and commitment of all IAEA staff from TC Divisions of Europe and PACT.

Mr. Presidents,

At the end, I would like to conclude by reiterating again my delegation's full support to you in steering this Ministerial Conference to a successful conclusion.

I wish once again to express the full support of the Albanian Government to the Agency in the realization of its statutory functions under the excellent guidance of its Director General.

Thank you.