

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Ahmet Muhtar GÜN,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
at the 62nd Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA,
(17 – 21 September 2018)**

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 62nd Session of the General Conference and the members of the General Committee on their election.

Turkey remains committed to working closely with the IAEA to support the highest standards in nuclear safety, security and safeguards to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology and to ensure the Agency's central role in international nuclear cooperation.

As an embarking country in the process of actively establishing its nuclear power infrastructure, Turkey attaches great importance to collaborating with the Agency and closely following the global trends in the nuclear field.

Turkey has set its sights to incorporating nuclear energy into electricity generation by 2023 and to having 10 percent of its power production from nuclear reactors by 2030.

The preceding year has seen important developments towards this goal. The work on the Akkuyu NPP continues in cooperation with the Russian Federation. It is expected that the first reactor unit will go online in 2023. The remaining three units will be operational with one-year intervals.

Work on the Sinop NPP project implemented within cooperation with Japan is at feasibility stage. A third NPP Project is at planning stage.

Mr. President,

2018 has also witnessed important developments regarding the organizational structure of the nuclear sector in Turkey. Regulatory duties and research activities have been rearranged. To this effect, Nuclear Regulatory Authority has been established.

In addition, Turkish Atomic Energy Authority has been reorganized as a research and development organization. It is also responsible for the disposal of radioactive waste. Obligations and financial security regarding the decommissioning and radioactive waste management are also defined.

In conjunction with these changes, Nuclear Energy Project Implementation Department has been raised to the level of General Directorate within the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources to coordinate the nuclear power program and projects.

Mr. President,

Guidance and recommendations provided by the Agency through review services are instrumental in supplementing the Turkish nuclear programme. Turkey continued to benefit from review services and expert missions of the Agency. Also, Turkey actively supports the Agency's program for nuclear safety. Our experts share experience with their counterparts through the hosting of the Agency's capacity building activities.

We encourage the Agency to continue to optimize the overall structure of its review and advisory services. Turkey believes that, increasing the flexibility of the Safety Review Services and the number of modular review and advisory services will encourage Member States to use the IAEA Safety Standards in their efforts to enhance their safety.

Mr. President,

Turkey supports the central role of the Agency in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation on nuclear security and providing assistance in capacity building at technical, policy and regulatory levels. We welcome the Nuclear Security Plan 2018-2021 and commends the Agency on its preparation and implementation.

We attach great importance to the globalization and full implementation of the CPPNM and its Amendment. We look forward to the review conference in 2021 and support the IAEA in the preparation of the conference.

We also look forward to the International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in 2020. The previous Nuclear Security Conference hosted by the Agency helped maintain political momentum and raise awareness of nuclear security among all stakeholders.

Mr. President,

The IAEA safeguards system, which makes a crucial contribution to international peace and security, is coming under increasing pressure due to rapidly developing technologies and the increased use of nuclear technologies and nuclear power production around the world. Turkey acknowledges the importance of keeping in pace with these developments and adapting the safeguards system to changing conditions and requirements. As such, we welcome the Secretariat's work on the State-level Approach (SLA) to safeguards.

Turkey recognizes that, the Director General's Report on the SLA is based on the limited experience; that the implementation of the SLA is relatively new and more information needs to be accumulated over a longer period, to draw a more comprehensive picture of the SLA. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to share information with the Member States through technical briefings and supplementary reports.

Mr. President,

The JCPoA is the outcome of years of diplomatic efforts and was endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council. The deal fulfills its premise and objectives under the monitoring of the IAEA. It makes a significant contribution to regional and international security. We believe that the JCPoA should be preserved and implemented fully and without interruption, in a transparent manner. In this regard, Turkey commends the efforts to carry on with the full and effective implementation of the deal, and supports the Agency in successfully fulfilling its mandate.

With respect to the DPRK, Turkey encourages the maintenance of the positive momentum gained by the diplomatic process aimed at creating an environment of confidence and nuclear disarmament on the Korean Peninsula. We hope the latest developments will be seized as an important window of opportunity for peace, both regionally and globally. We believe that, these efforts should be accompanied by the DPRK's concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

Thank you Mr. President.