

## **SLOVAKIA**

### **„ICONS 2024: Shaping the Future”**

**IAEA’s Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from 20 to 24 May**

**2024**

Statement by the Head of Delegation, Mme. Marta Žiaková

Vienna, 20 May 2024

Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to speak here today, on behalf of the Slovak Republic. Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and with the Co-Presidents’ Joint Statement of ICONS. Slovakia expresses deepest condolences to the people of Iran and to the relatives of the victims of yesterday’s tragic helicopter crash in Iran.

I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

The fourth ICONS ministerial conference is another valuable opportunity to take stock of the progress made so far in nuclear security and to assess all achievements accomplished, as well as to address challenges still unmet. I would like to reaffirm my country’s strong commitment and appreciation of the work of the IAEA and the key role it plays in strengthening the global nuclear security framework and in facilitating respective international cooperation. The Agency’s assistance provided to Member States through, inter alia, the provision

of guidance documents and peer review and advisory services, has continuously proven to be of high importance in establishing and improving national nuclear security regimes.

Excellencies,

Slovakia strongly supports the implementation of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material – CPPNM and we commend the Agency on its efforts towards its universalization and call upon all countries that have not yet done so to become Parties to this essential instrument. Slovakia is also firmly committed to and supports the universalization of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) - we have adopted all measures to implement its provisions into national legislation.

Even though the responsibility for nuclear security rests solely with individual states, it is also in our common interest to ensure that the nuclear security architecture is properly implemented within states. The effectiveness of nuclear security systems is a key element of this goal, along with a strong nuclear security culture. I reiterate the commitment of my government to sustain and further enhance effective and comprehensive nuclear security of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities in Slovakia.

I am pleased to report that Slovakia has implemented all relevant requirements from the Amended CPPNM into national legislation, as well as into the practice. Besides, the law on critical infrastructure was amended, leading to inclusion of nuclear facilities among critical national infrastructure, which strengthened the position and importance of a nuclear facility. In order to respond more effectively to the rapidly growing threats, such as the misuse of unmanned aerial systems for malicious

purposes, theft or sabotage, a government task force, dedicated to drawing up countermeasures against the misuse of drones in critical infrastructure, was established. Relevant legislative updates have been made and several more are in the pipeline to address nuclear security threats posed by drones. Another example of practical steps taken is the provisions aimed to counter cyber threats and measures to protect the nuclear facilities against a plane crash, which were implemented at the Mochovce NPP site. Slovakia supports further discussions and international cooperation to take necessary near-future steps to implement adequate nuclear security measures regarding emerging technologies, such as SMRs and advanced nuclear reactor technologies, Artificial Intelligence, and advanced cyber capabilities.

Excellencies,

The common goal of both nuclear safety and nuclear security is the protection of people and the environment from undue radiological hazards and accidents, thus the coordination to address their interfaces and synergies is essential. We encourage the Agency to continue to facilitate this process and underline the need for sufficient and sustainable funding for both activities.

Slovakia fully supports and commends the Agency's continued efforts in assisting Ukraine to maintain nuclear safety and security and implementing safeguards as well as providing technical support and assistance. The continued on-site presence of the Agency at all Ukraine's nuclear facilities, and especially at the ZNPP illegally seized by Russia and ensuring of a timely access to all areas at the ZNPP for the IAEA experts, is crucial. DG Grossi's seven pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security and his five principles for avoiding a nuclear

accident at the ZNPP must be respected.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Slovakia's readiness to contribute to a successful outcome of this Conference, and to further work and cooperate actively to continue to strengthen the nuclear security framework. Thank you.