



G R E E C E

68th IAEA General Conference

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Statement by H.E. Mr Georgios Iliopoulos, Ambassador-Resident Representative of Greece to the IAEA

President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election and express our full support to your work ensuring the success of this General Conference.

Greece highly values the International Atomic Energy Agency's technical expertise, independence and impartiality in fulfilling its mandate and is dedicated to maintaining a strong partnership and cooperation with it.

Amidst the many crises and global challenges we face, it is more crucial than ever to advance rules-based multilateralism, on the basis of international law and the principles of the UN, while reinforcing international cooperation

Greece aligns itself with the statement of the European Union as published online and I would like to highlight some additional points in my national capacity.

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Over two and a half years have passed since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the illegal seizure of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. These actions constitute blatant violations of the UN Charter, international law, and the IAEA Statute. Greece continues to condemn Russia's illegal war of aggression.

During this time, as the IAEA continuously reports, nuclear safety and security at the ZNPP have steadily worsened. Russia's intensified attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure have further heightened risks to the nuclear safety and security of all nuclear facilities in Ukraine.

We are grateful to the IAEA and its Director General for their critical support to Ukraine and commend the courageous work of its staff in maintaining the continuous Agency's presence on the ground. The seven indispensable pillars and the five concrete principles for ensuring nuclear safety and security must be upheld. As the Director General has emphasized, "a nuclear accident must be avoided at all costs and a nuclear power plant must never be attacked."

We urge Russia to completely withdraw all of its troops from Ukraine and respect its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.

Greece has endorsed the outcome of the Summit on Peace for Ukraine in June and stands for a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine.

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Nuclear safety and security incidents recognize no borders, and when they occur, their impact can extend across regions or even globally. This highlights the importance of every nation upholding the highest standards of nuclear safety and security, as collective protection depends on everyone's commitment.

Greece, as a party to all major international conventions on nuclear safety, firmly believes that transparency is a vital element in building public trust in the safety of nuclear energy.

We fully support the IAEA's efforts to enhance global nuclear safety and are convinced that Member States benefit significantly from the Agency's expertise through peer reviews. To promote transparency and ongoing improvement, we encourage the publication of peer review outcomes and urge the IAEA to consider Member States' feedback to enhance the quality and responsiveness of future missions.

Greece carefully follows the development of new technologies, such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) which might be a key element in the future to achieving carbon neutral emissions when the highest IAEA standards of nuclear safety are ensured.

Greece also stresses the need for continuous efforts to strengthening global nuclear security and has endorsed the Joint Statement of Australia and Kazakhstan Co-chairs of the fourth ICONS Conference held last May in Vienna.

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Greece reaffirms its strong support to the full implementation and universalisation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) across its three pillars. We emphasize the importance of implementing robust nuclear safeguards, including the application of the Additional Protocol to ensure the peaceful nature of nuclear activities.

In the context of non proliferation, Iran's accumulation of nuclear material beyond any credible civilian justification is of significant concern for the international community.

Greece fully supports the Agency's efforts to secure progress with Iran on resolving outstanding safeguards issues and improving cooperation. The lack of progress on the implementation of the March 2023 Joint Statement over the past 15 months is deeply concerning. We call upon the new Iranian government to engage with the Agency promptly and substantively, to ensure full compliance with its legal obligations under its NPT Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

DPRK's repeated ballistic missile launches and ongoing development of its nuclear programme pose a serious threat to global peace and security and challenge the international non-proliferation regime. Additionally, DPRK's destabilizing actions in the area and its involvement in other areas' armed conflicts heighten these challenges for the international community.

Greece has consistently supported international efforts to achieve complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation on the Korean Peninsula. Greece is devoted to diplomacy and dialogue and will continue to work together with our partners for a comprehensive resolution of this complex issue.

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Greece highly values the IAEA's pivotal role in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy, advancing development through its Technical Cooperation

Programme. We welcome the IAEA's initiatives in addressing global challenges such as climate change and food security.

In this regard, we look forward to this year's Scientific Forum on "Atoms4Food" and to the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications this November, in which we will actively participate.

Furthermore, we commend the IAEA's strong commitment to gender equality and encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts toward achieving gender parity and integrating gender considerations across its programmes.

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Greece has actively collaborated with the IAEA over the past year in several key areas. To highlight a few, an ARTEMIS evaluation assessed Greece's management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. Greece also signed a Country Program Framework (CPF) for 2024-2027, outlining its national priorities under the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme. As part of its support to Ukraine, Greece has also donated equipment and services via the IAEA. Furthermore, at the request of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission which functions as an IAEA Regional Training Center, an Education and Training Appraisal (EduTA) reviewed Greece's national framework of education and training on radiation protection and radiological safety.

In concluding, President,

Greece would like to express appreciation for the work of Director General Grossi and reiterates its unwavering support to the Agency's central role in ensuring the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you, President.