



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STATEMENT

68th GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

AMBASSADOR

ŽARKO OBRADOVIĆ

**HEAD OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE
OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

Vienna, 16 September 2024

Mister President,

Distinguished Director-General, Mister Grossi

Your Excellencies,

Respected Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

First of all, it is my honour to address you on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia at the 68th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference. I would also like to express my satisfaction with the manner and scope of the cooperation between our country and the IAEA, primarily bearing in mind its importance in enhancing the overall field of radiation and nuclear safety and security in the Republic of Serbia.

Thus, I am taking this opportunity to affirm full commitment of the Republic of Serbia to the work of the Secretariat and the IAEA fundamental principles and goals governing safe and secure use of nuclear energy, especially considering our strong and traditional orientation towards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of each person and a society as a whole.

In this regard, I would like to underline the Republic of Serbia's steady adherence to continuous development of its legislative and regulatory framework in the field

of radiation and nuclear safety and security in line with the international standards and the EU *acquis*, and, thus, its full support of the IAEA efforts towards further development of the international standards and relevant international legal documents.

I would additionally like to emphasize that the Republic of Serbia fully abides by the IAEA principles and goals regarding the safe use of nuclear energy, and, without reservation, remains dedicated to global peace, security and development in general. Such policies are in line with the IAEA programmes and activities in the process of strengthening and enhancing the effective application of nuclear safeguards in line with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and universal efforts towards non-proliferation regime. In addition, the Republic of Serbia attaches priority importance to combating nuclear terrorism and strongly supports the international community in implementing the measures to deter illicit trafficking of nuclear material and other radiation sources, especially by strengthening their proper physical protection and retrieval of orphan sources under regulatory control.

The public health care, environmental protection, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technologies in support of global peace, prosperity and welfare of future generations, now more than ever, remain the prime consideration of our country. In this regard, the Republic of Serbia will continue to attend to its obligations arising from the relevant international conventions and documents, especially the Code of

Conduct on the safety and security of radiation sources, as a legally non-binding instrument, as well as the Guidance on the import and export of radioactive sources and the Guidance on the management of disused sealed radioactive sources, bearing in mind the relevance the IAEA attaches to these documents in terms of the safety and security of radiation sources in general.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Serbia fully approves of the IAEA Annual Report for 2023, as well as the programme and the budget for 2025. We can proudly reaffirm that the partner and close relations between the Republic of Serbia and the IAEA have also been confirmed between two Regular Sessions. The IAEA professional and financial support to our country is a key element for the establishment and development of safe and secure use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, application of proper radiation protection measures and reinforcing national regulatory infrastructure in line with the international principles, recommendations and standards.

The Technical Cooperation Programme within the 2024-25 cycle between the Republic of Serbia and the IAEA is currently carried out through monitoring and evaluation of four new and five existing national projects, and eleven new and eleven existing regional projects. We are also participating in other technical meetings,

conferences, Coordinated Research Activities, specialized missions and other activities organized by the other IAEA departments.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude on the IAEA support in the field of human health – primarily nuclear medicine and radionuclide therapy, radiopharmaceutical production, control of transboundary spread of animal diseases, improvement of radiation safety, which, bearing in mind the possibility to cooperate with the IAEA experts, has been of great importance for the Republic of Serbia. At the same time, we have completed a number of consultancy and expert meetings, trainings and participations in the international meetings. The Republic of Serbia, through its relevant institutions, has also hosted multiple fellowships and regional workshops, and our experts have participated in a number of expert missions within the IAEA TC Programme.

One of the examples of our close cooperation with the IAEA is a recent successful and fruitful visit by the IAEA expert mission led by Mr Jing Zhang to our country when Mr Zhang and his associates had meetings with the high representatives of the Republic of Serbia and participated in the workshop “How IAEA can assist Serbia in the development of a nuclear power program through TC interregional projects” which was organized by Serbian Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security Directorate.

Another important milestone in this cooperation is a joint organization by the IAEA and Serbian Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security Directorate of a two-week advanced interregional course in the field of nuclear law at the Faculty of Law in Belgrade on 28 October 2024 when a number of presentations on nuclear law will be held by the IAEA experts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would also like to point out that the Republic of Serbia signed in July this year the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of application of nuclear energy development in Serbia whose signatories, among others, are the competent ministries, regulatory body, institutes, public companies, faculties and other relevant organizations. This Memorandum underlines two facts: the importance of synergy between all state bodies and institutions in nuclear energy application development on one hand, and the international cooperation on the other.

In closing my statement, let me reassure you that the Republic of Serbia remains committed to further development of its cooperation with the IAEA so that the national professionals and experts, above all, could accept and adopt good practice and apply expert knowledge. We strongly believe that strengthening further cooperation with the IAEA is the only course our country can take and that owing

to full support of this respected organization, the Republic of Serbia will significantly improve radiation and nuclear safety and security in general.

Thank you!