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IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme

Vienna, 26-28 November 2024

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

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

At the outset, let me thank the Co-Chairs, Finland and Ghana, and the IAEA Secretariat for organizing this important Ministerial Conference. The consensual adoption of the Ministerial Declaration highlights the collective commitment of Member States to advancing nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes in line with national priorities and global needs.

Greece aligns itself with the statement delivered by Hungary on behalf of the European Union and I would like to highlight some additional points in my national capacity:

Greece commends the IAEA for its critical work in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Its initiatives in addressing key global challenges, including climate change, health, food security, water resource management, and cultural heritage preservation, are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme remains an invaluable tool for fostering innovation and capacity-building worldwide, and we remain steadfast in supporting its efforts.

Greece is actively involved in the diverse applications of nuclear science and technology in medicine, industry and education to improve the quality of life and contribute to the socio-economic development. Although a non-nuclear power country, we follow carefully the developments with regards to SMRs and microreactors. In particular, as a leading shipping nation, Greece supports and expresses interest in the forthcoming IAEA's Atomic Technology Licensed for Applications at Sea initiative (ATLAS). This innovative initiative charts new waters in the field of nuclear technology in maritime applications.

Greece places great value on the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme, which fosters capacity-building and facilitates the responsible development of nuclear technologies worldwide. The TCP has been instrumental in strengthening Greece's own capabilities, while enabling us to share our expertise with other Member States.

The Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE), as an IAEA Regional European Training Center, organizes training programs, including the Post-Graduate Educational Course (PGEC) on Radiation Protection, which attracts professionals worldwide. Greece supports the IAEA by hosting researchers and young professionals through the Technical Cooperation Program and has established scholarships to support future nuclear science professionals.

Under its 2024–2027 Country Program Framework, Greece focuses on radiation safety, waste management, and nuclear research. In the current TC cycle, Greece is implementing a project to strengthen radionuclide and trace metal monitoring, reflecting our commitment to environmental protection and public health.

Promoting gender equality is integral to sustainable development. Greece commends the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program, advancing gender diversity in the nuclear field. We encourage further integration of gender perspectives across all IAEA activities.

In conclusion, Greece reiterates its unwavering support for the IAEA's efforts to harness nuclear science and technology for peace, health, and prosperity. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Agency and Member States in advancing these shared goals.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.