

**Statement
of the Republic of Cyprus to the 69th IAEA General Conference
Vienna, Austria, 16 September 2025
by the Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus**

President,

On behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to congratulate you on your election and to assure you of our full support and cooperation. We also commend the IAEA Secretariat and the Director General for their dedicated and professional work in these challenging times.

Cyprus fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency the Minister of Resilience and Preparedness of the Kingdom of Denmark, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. In our national capacity, I would like to add the following remarks.

President,

Cyprus is a State Party to all major international treaties and conventions on nuclear safety, security, and safeguards, and remains firmly committed to their strengthening and implementation. We highly value the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program, which has greatly contributed to the enhancement of our national capabilities, while also supporting the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

In close cooperation with the Agency, Cyprus has successfully completed two national projects and is currently implementing two more, benefiting from knowledge and expertise in areas such as radioactive source management, regulatory training, and public health applications. We are also proud to host and co-organize IAEA events, further strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation.

Although Cyprus has no nuclear power plants or reactors, we recognize the global importance of the Agency's safety and security standards. We strongly support measures to ensure the highest levels of protection, while emphasizing the importance of transparency and regional cooperation, given the transboundary risks of nuclear incidents. No state is immune to risks stemming from natural disasters, conflict, terrorism, or cyberattacks; cooperation and information exchange are therefore essential.

We also stress the importance for all states to accede to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment, as well as to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Cyprus is a strong supporter of the IAEA Safeguards System. We call for the universalization of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with the Additional Protocol, and urge all remaining states to amend or rescind their original Small Quantities Protocols, as Cyprus did last year.

President,

Cyprus welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Agency and Ukraine at the Recovery Conference in Rome, which demonstrates the Agency's strong commitment to cooperation with Ukraine despite the difficult circumstances caused by Russia's war of aggression.

At the same time, we remain gravely concerned by the continuing risks to nuclear safety and security at the Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant, as a result of its illegal seizure by the Russian Federation. Ongoing military activities, the presence of armed forces and military equipment, continue to jeopardize the safety of Europe's largest nuclear facility. We strongly oppose any unlawful attempts to alter its internationally recognized status, including its connection to the Russian electric grid. We urge Russia to end its war of aggression against Ukraine and to fully withdraw its armed forces from the ZNPP and all territories within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

President,

Cyprus remains a strong advocate of a peaceful diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and is concerned about the potential implications of any armed attacks on nuclear facilities.

At the same time, Iran's suspension of cooperation with the Agency causes us deep concern. We urge Iran to resume full cooperation, grant the Agency access to all nuclear sites for safeguards verification, and fully implement its obligations under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. Iran must also provide verifiable information on the whereabouts of its nuclear material, including its stockpiles of highly enriched uranium, making it the only non-nuclear-weapon state to possess such quantities. We call on Iran to urgently return to the negotiating table and demonstrate genuine willingness to resolve the matter.

President,

Cyprus condemns the DPRK's ongoing nuclear activities and repeated ballistic missile launches, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. We urge the DPRK to return to compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards verification. The DPRK will never be recognized as a nuclear-weapon state.

We also welcome and firmly support the engagement of the Director General with Syria, reflecting the Agency's commitment to its mandate. We trust that Syria will continue to demonstrate its commitment to non-proliferation by granting the Agency all necessary means and access to clarify outstanding safeguards issues.

President,

Gender equality remains one of Cyprus's top priorities. We therefore warmly welcome the announcement by the Director General that the Agency has achieved gender parity

in professional and senior positions. We encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts in mainstreaming gender perspectives across all programs and projects.

In conclusion, allow me to express our deep appreciation for the work of Director General Grossi and all IAEA staff. Your mission is more vital than ever, and you can count on our full support.