

S T A T E M E N T

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Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan, we congratulate you on your election as President of this General Conference and wish you every success. We highly value the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) leading role in strengthening global nuclear safety and security, advancing peaceful nuclear technologies, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through its national activities and multilateral efforts, Azerbaijan supports the IAEA as the primary institution for international dialogue and cooperation on peaceful use of nuclear technologies. By aligning with the IAEA's mission and standards, Azerbaijan contributes to the promotion of nuclear safety, security, non-proliferation, and the responsible application of nuclear technologies for sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Nuclear power plays a significant role in the global energy supply, particularly as a low-emission source of electricity and a contributor to energy independence.

In November 2024, Azerbaijan hosted COP29 in Baku, marking a significant step in the country's clean energy transition. On this occasion, the Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan and the IAEA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on energy planning under the Paris Agreement. This collaboration, within the framework of the IAEA's Atoms4NetZero initiative, will assess the potential role of nuclear power in supporting Azerbaijan's low-carbon strategy. It will also support energy scenario analysis, infrastructure planning, regulatory development, and capacity building, while examining the synergies between nuclear power, renewables, and grid flexibility.

We thank IAEA Director General Mr. Grossi for his participation at COP29 and for the Agency's pavilion, which served as a valuable platform to showcase the role of nuclear technologies in addressing global climate and sustainability challenges, which aligns with Azerbaijan's long-term strategy for clean energy transition and energy security. As part of this strategy, we are exploring the possible role of small modular reactors (SMRs) in our national energy system.

Azerbaijan remains committed to close cooperation with the IAEA and all Member States to ensure an inclusive, equitable, and effective clean energy transition - one that protects the planet, supports prosperity, and secures the well-being of current and future generations.

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan values its cooperation with the IAEA in ensuring nuclear security at major public events, including COP29. Building on the Agency's established support in this area, we look forward to continued collaboration for upcoming international events such as Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix, the 3rd Commonwealth of Independent States Games (CIS) to be held in Azerbaijan this year and the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13). In coordination with national authorities and guided by the IAEA's expertise, we aim to apply international best practices to strengthen preparedness, detection, and response measures.

Mr. President,

The past year marked a significant expansion of Azerbaijan's cooperation with the Agency. A new Country Programme Framework (CPF) for 2024–2029 was signed, outlining our priorities in nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear medicine, agriculture, industry, environmental monitoring, and regulatory capacity-building.

The signing of the CPF is of fundamental importance, as it ensures long-term, harmonized cooperation with the IAEA and leverages its expertise and resources to support the implementation of Azerbaijan's national priorities. This document establishes a structured platform for project implementation, the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and the effective use of nuclear technologies to promote the country's national sustainability agenda.

In conclusion, Azerbaijan remains firmly committed to ongoing cooperation with the Agency and to supporting its initiatives.

Thank you for your attention.