

STATEMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Mr. Josip Brkić, M.Sc. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and
Herzegovina Head of the Delegation**

**at the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
(IAEA) 15th – 19th September 2025**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to address this distinguished assembly on behalf of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This gathering unites us in our shared commitment to global nuclear safety, security, and the peaceful application of nuclear technology.

At the outset, I wish to express our profound gratitude to Director General Grossi for his exceptional leadership of the Agency during these challenging times. We highly value the IAEA's continued effectiveness and its vital role in fostering international cooperation and upholding the highest standards of safety and security.

I would like to highlight our nation's progress in strengthening our regulatory framework, enhancing international cooperation, and building national capacity for nuclear safety.

Over the past year, guided by IAEA recommendations, Bosnia and Herzegovina has significantly reinforced its legislative and regulatory framework. We have finalized updates to key regulations on radiation safety and radioactive waste management. In parallel, we are upgrading our regulatory infrastructure, including the transition to an enhanced information system and the development of a national dose registry for occupational exposure tracking. These measures directly address the valuable recommendations from the 2022 IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission and further harmonize our oversight practices with international best practices.

Our State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (SRARNS) continues to maintain rigorous licensing, inspection, and enforcement programs, ensuring high standards of safety across all radiation practices. We are proud to note a national trend toward safer technologies, which helps reduce long-term risks and the generation of radioactive waste.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also significantly enhanced its nuclear emergency preparedness. We have formally joined the European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE) system and, since 2024, have been actively sharing real-time environmental radiation data via the European Radiological Data Exchange Platform (EURDEP). With support from the IAEA and the European Union, we have deployed twelve new automated gamma monitoring stations, greatly strengthening our radiation monitoring and early warning capabilities. Our regular participation in IAEA ConvEx drills, including a full-scale ConvEx-3 exercise in 2025, has further improved our inter-agency emergency response coordination.

In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina is continuously strengthening its nuclear security regime as part of its commitment to prevent nuclear terrorism and illicit trafficking. We are actively implementing an Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan to enhance measures for protecting nuclear and radioactive materials and facilities. In this context, we emphasize the importance of universal adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment, and we urge all states to ratify and fully implement these instruments to reinforce global nuclear security.

Active international cooperation remains a cornerstone of our progress. Through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation program and support from our European partners, we have received modern equipment, expert training, and technical guidance that have been crucial in enhancing our national infrastructure for radiation safety. Notably, thanks to the IAEA's support, Bosnia and Herzegovina established a dedicated state regulatory agency 15 years ago, a milestone we celebrated last year with our partners. We are fully engaged with all major international instruments on nuclear safety, security, and safeguards, having submitted comprehensive national reports under the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention. By proactively embracing the peer review process, we underscore that nuclear safety is a paramount concern for every country—nuclear and non-nuclear alike.

Mr. President,

I would now like to bring to your attention a matter of ongoing and concern for Bosnia and Herzegovina—the planned establishment of a radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel disposal facility at the Trgovska Gora site, located in the immediate vicinity of the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia.

The most important thing for Bosnia and Herzegovina is to find a solution in a joint constructive dialogue and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Assessment of Environmental Impacts in a Cross-Border Context (Espoo Convention).

We trust that the Republic of Croatia shares our commitment to international standards and good neighborly relations, and we are confident that this matter can and should be addressed through open dialogue, transparency, and mutual respect.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains fully committed to the principles and objectives of the IAEA, including the safe, secure, and environmentally responsible management of radioactive waste. We also emphasize the importance of demonstrating clear political will on both sides to resolve this issue constructively, with full regard for the rights and concerns of the affected population.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to being a valuable and responsible member of the IAEA, implementing key international treaties, standards, and recommendations. We are confident that by collaborating with the Agency and its Member States, we can effectively address the challenges before us.

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks to the Director General and the Agency staff for their continuing professionalism and diligent work in the preparation of this 69th regular session of the General Conference.

Thank you for your attention.