

STATEMENT BY ESTONIA

69th Annual Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference

Mr. Andres Sutt

Minister of Energy and the Environment

Vienna, 16 September 2025

Distinguished President,

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the General Conference. You have our full support and cooperation. Estonia fully aligns itself with the EU statement delivered by Denmark and would like to highlight several key points in our national capacity.

The Republic of Estonia reiterates its strongest condemnation of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, its seizure and militarization of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and strikes against Ukraine's civilian energy infrastructure. Three and a half years into Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian drone strikes have recently intensified significantly, further endangering nuclear safety and security in all of Ukraine's nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities. Russia's reckless actions pose a persistent threat to nuclear safety and security with potential regional and global consequences. We commend Director General Grossi and the Agency for their courageous efforts and call for the immediate and unconditional return of the Zaporizhzhia plant to Ukraine's control. Estonia demands the complete withdrawal of Russian forces from all Ukrainian nuclear facilities and reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and right to self-defense. We will stand with Ukraine for as long as necessary to ensure justice and accountability for these grave violations.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Iran's continued disregard for its safeguards obligations alongside its repeated lack of meaningful cooperation with the IAEA seriously affects the Agency's ability to conduct its verification activities in Iran. We urge Iran to allow inspections to resume at its nuclear facilities and to cooperate fully with the IAEA to urgently

verify Iran's stockpile of High Enriched Uranium, which remains unaccounted for. Without the full implementation of safeguards in Iran being resumed, the Agency will not be in a position to provide any conclusion or assurance regarding Iran's nuclear program.

Distinguished President,

Estonia advocates for the use and development of innovative nuclear technologies to assist Member States in achieving energy security and leveraging nuclear science and technology for socio-economic, medical, health, and environmental benefits. Given that safety and security are foundational in the nuclear field, it is essential to uphold the highest standards and expand knowledge in this area. To achieve this, transparency, cooperation, sharing best practices, and promoting a culture of safety and security are crucial.

Estonia is proud to be part of this international community and to contribute to these efforts. During this conference, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Estonia will sign an agreement to designate the North Estonia Medical Centre as one of the IAEA's Collaborating Centers under the Rays of Hope initiative. This partnership will enable us to assist Member States in developing or enhancing their capacities in radiotherapy and medical imaging. We are honored by the recognition of North Estonian Medical Hospital as an IAEA Anchor Centre. This designation reaffirms our commitment to advancing training, education, and cooperation in cancer care at the regional and international levels. We are grateful to the IAEA and the Director General for their ongoing efforts on this important initiative and for the opportunities for us to contribute.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation and support provided by the Agency through its expert missions and Technical Cooperation Programme. As Estonia advances in its nuclear journey, the Estonian Government initiated national spatial planning in May of this year to identify a suitable site for a small modular reactor (SMR). Additionally, we are drafting the Nuclear Law and amending the current legal and regulatory frameworks to establish a nuclear regulator. In this journey, we strongly value the IAEA's dedicated and needs-based support and look forward to further cooperation in building our expertise in the potential use of nuclear power.

Distinguished President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to convey our appreciation for the essential work performed by the Director General and the Secretariat. I encourage all nations to persist in their support for the Agency in its vital mission.

Thank you, Distinguished President.