

## STATEMENT OF GEORGIA

International Atomic Energy Agency

69th General Conference (15-19 September 2023)

Excellences,

Distinguished Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election and assure you of Georgia's full support and cooperation in achieving a successful General Conference.

It is an honor to address this audience on behalf of the Government of Georgia. We gather here under the auspices of the IAEA, united by our commitment to peace, security, and the responsible use of nuclear technology. Georgia recognizes the Agency's vital role in promoting safe, secure, and peaceful applications, and we commend its efforts in safeguarding nuclear materials for the benefit of humanity.

With nuclear potential comes responsibility to ensure its safe and secure use. Georgia aligns with the IAEA's mission to strengthen safety and security and to prevent proliferation. We advocate for strengthening international frameworks that promote transparency, accountability, and cooperation among nations.

We also stress the importance of technical assistance and capacity building provided by the IAEA. Georgia is eager to both contribute to and benefit from these initiatives, as mutual support and knowledge sharing are key to advancing nuclear science and technology.

Dear Colleagues,

Georgia reiterates its resolute condemnation of Russia's military activities in proximity to nuclear facilities in Ukraine. These actions pose an unprecedented risk to regional and global security, jeopardizing the safety of nuclear materials and well-being of innocent civilians. The disregard for internationally recognized norms and safety protocols is unacceptable.

Georgia commends Director General Grossi, the IAEA staff, and experts for their tireless work and sustained physical presence at the ZNPP and Ukraine's other nuclear facilities to reduce the risk of a nuclear accidents.

While the IAEA remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, we remain concerned by the ongoing nuclear rhetoric emanating from Russia. Such actions risk undermining confidence in the global non-proliferation regime and may negatively affect the broader disarmament architecture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a strategically located country in the Black Sea region, Georgia upholds high standards of CBRN security at national, regional, and international levels, contributing to global security. Preventing and responding to nuclear and radioactive threats are central to our state security, and effective measures by Georgian law enforcement have successfully prevented illegal activities. Between 2021 and 2025, the State Security Service of Georgia identified and prevented five cases of illegal trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. Eight individuals were brought to criminal responsibility. The most recent operation was carried out on July 17, 2025, during which an attempt to illegally sell nuclear material—specifically uranium—was thwarted. A total of 36.37 grams of depleted uranium was confiscated during this operation.

Bearing this in mind, I would like to draw your attention to Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions—illegally occupied by Russia, where internationally agreed security measures cannot be implemented. Georgia has previously detected the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials through these occupied territories. However, the absence of an international presence in the occupied territories makes it impossible to conduct any verification activities on the ground. Therefore, the threat of proliferation in and from the occupied territories of the Black Sea region remains a pressing concern for both regional and international security.

Mr. President,

Given the current deteriorating security environment, safeguarding the integrity of the NPT regime is of paramount importance. Ensuring peaceful use of nuclear energy and building international trust through verification and oversight is crucial to preventing nuclear proliferation and to promoting regional stability.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that Georgia is honored to serve on the IAEA Board of Governors for the 2024–2026 term, where we are fully committed to advancing the Agency's mandate.

let me reaffirm Georgia's commitment to the IAEA's mission and principles. Together, we can harness the potential of nuclear technology for peace, security, and sustainable development.

Georgia stands ready to cooperate with all member states to achieve a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you.