

**69<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the IAEA**

**Statement**

**The Republic of Latvia**

**Mrs. Līga Kurevska, State Secretary of the Ministry of Climate and Energy of  
the Republic of Latvia,**

**Vienna, Austria, 15 – 19 September 2025**

Mr. President,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by warmly congratulating you on your election as President of this Conference. I look forward to working under your leadership and guidance.

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to offer a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

Latvia remains deeply concerned by the ongoing erosion of the global non-proliferation architecture, as nuclear safety, security and safeguards, as well as the integrity of international arms control commitments face mounting challenges. Particularly, Latvia unequivocally condemns Russia's unprovoked and illegal aggression against Ukraine. The occupation and militarization of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) by Russian forces represents an unprecedented threat to nuclear safety and security.

We are deeply troubled that nuclear safety and security at the ZNPP continues to be precarious, with six out of seven indispensable pillars and five concrete principles

as set out by the Director General being comprised fully or partially. Latvia commends the IAEA's continued efforts to maintain the continued presence of the ISAMZ mission at the ZNPP and to monitor the situation under extremely challenging conditions.

Russia's irresponsible behavior has put not only Ukraine but also the global nuclear safety and security, international institutions and radiation monitoring services under unprecedented strain. Latvia is grateful for the Agency's continued provision of independent, fact-based reporting, which contributes meaningfully to transparency and strengthens public and international confidence in nuclear oversight.

Mr. President,

Latvia is deeply concerned by Iran's persistent non-compliance with its JCPOA commitments and that its assurances to cooperate with the IAEA have remained without meaningful progress. The recent invocation of the snapback mechanism underscores the seriousness of its violations. Latvia takes note of the announcement that an agreement was reached between Iran and the IAEA on the technical measures to resume inspections of the Iranian nuclear sites. We look forward to implementation of this agreement and urge Iran to take immediate and verifiable steps to restore compliance with the NPT and to return to full cooperation with the Agency in line with its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

Latvia also condemns the DPRK's continued advancements of its nuclear weapons program and the provocative ballistic missile tests. These actions violate multiple UN Security Council resolutions and heighten regional instability. Latvia supports the Agency's readiness to monitor and verify DPRK's nuclear program once conditions permit meaningful engagement.

Mr. President,

Latvia strongly supports the safe, secure, and sustainable use of nuclear energy, but these benefits can only be realized if strict non-proliferation commitments are upheld. We value the Agency's role in supporting Member States, enhancing nuclear safety, and fostering innovation in the fields of nuclear energy, medicine, plastic pollution reduction, and agriculture.

We note this year's Scientific Forum's theme "Atoms for Water", which highlights the crucial contribution of nuclear technologies in addressing water challenges worldwide. Latvia commends this focus, as it directly relates to global sustainability and climate resilience.

Mr. President,

Latvia is currently evaluating the potential role of nuclear energy in its future energy system. This process is approached with caution, carefully weighing the possible benefits against strict safety and security requirements.

The Cabinet of Ministers has initiated the first phase of a national nuclear energy programme. This phase includes an assessment of the legal framework, safety standards, infrastructure needs, workforce readiness, and public engagement.

Our goal is to deliver a comprehensive, evidence-based evaluation that will guide strategic decision-making, strengthen international cooperation, attract investment, and raise public awareness.

Mr. President,

To strengthen our national regulatory framework, Latvia welcomed an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) follow-up mission in 2024. We are committed to fully implement its recommendations.

To review the emergency preparedness and response framework for nuclear and radiological emergencies in Latvia, Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) mission will be held in Latvia next month.

Latvia also continues to contribute to regional cooperation. Over the past year, our health care institutions accepted 5 fellows in nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging and till end of this year will host 2 more. We are open to continue to support IAEA TC programme also in future.

Under the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (2024–2025 cycle), Latvia successfully implemented three national projects. These focused on improving control in radioactive waste management, strengthening the national regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety, and enhancing the quality and accessibility of healthcare through improved diagnostic radiology and radiation therapy services.

For the upcoming 2026–2027 planning cycle, Latvia has submitted three new national projects. Our priorities will include strengthening the culture of radiation safety in medical exposure, improving the expertise of regulatory personnel, and enhancing knowledge, skills, and technical capacity in cancer diagnosis, stereotactic radiotherapy treatment, and pediatric diagnostics in radiology.

We are deeply grateful to the Agency for the opportunities it has provided to Latvia's institutions to strengthen their competence in various areas of radiation protection, nuclear safety and security.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Latvia reaffirms its strong support for the Agency's work across its mandate. We highly value the Agency's indispensable role in promoting nuclear safety, security and safeguards worldwide, as well as in addressing global challenges through science and technology.

Thank you.