



MISSÃO PERMANENTE DE PORTUGAL  
VIENA

**International Atomic Energy Agency  
69<sup>th</sup>. General Conference  
15-19 September 2025**

**General Debate**

**Statement by Portugal**

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you on your election and wish you every success in leading this Conference. You and the Bureau can count on Portugal's full support.

Also a warm welcome to the Maldives as the newest member of this Agency.

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of 26 EU Member States and wishes to add the following remarks.

Excellencies, dear delegates,

We live in an increasingly complex and unpredictable world. We witness devastating wars, blatant violations of international law, rising tensions, hatred, and increasingly irresponsible and inflammatory rhetoric — including related to nuclear matters.

In these challenging times, upholding multilateralism, adherence to international law, fostering genuine dialogue and mutual understanding, and encouraging deterrence and de-escalation are more relevant than ever.

The IAEA plays a vital and irreplaceable role in this context. It holds a central responsibility within the global non-proliferation, nuclear safety, and security architecture — primarily through its independent verification of whether States are complying with their international legal obligations to use nuclear material and technology solely for peaceful purposes.

History reminds us of the destructive potential of nuclear. But today — and we hope in the future — we see the peaceful use of nuclear applications as part of the solution to some of humanity's major challenges. They are a catalyst for



MISSÃO PERMANENTE DE PORTUGAL  
VIENA

sustainable development, an enabler of economic growth, and an ally in combating climate change.

Portugal fully supports the Agency's mandate, including peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology and its technical cooperation work. If entrusted by this General Conference, **Portugal will shortly be elected to the Agency's Board of Governors**, where we will further strengthen our already solid cooperation with the IAEA. This reflects our commitment to the Agency and to Atoms for Peace and Development.

Mr. President,

We thank Director General Grossi for his leadership, his pursuit of dialogue for durable solutions, and the dynamism he brings to the cause of Atoms for Peace.

Portugal greatly values the seven **flagship initiatives** launched by the DG in recent years to maximize the contribution of nuclear science and technology to the SDGs. We are already **collaborators or contributors** to four of them: Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics, and the Marie Curie Fellowship Programme. We are committed to enhancing our support to these initiatives, including through the renewal of our **Memorandum of Understanding** with the Agency, currently under negotiation. We also intend to join the Lise Meitner Programme.

Mr. President,

Portugal fully supports the Agency's work in **Ukraine**, essential to help preserve nuclear safety and security in the country, which remains precarious due to the ongoing conflict. We are especially grateful to IAEA staff stationed at Ukrainian NPPs. Portugal supports a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on the UN Charter, international law, and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We are concerned about the implications of **armed attacks on nuclear facilities** and call for utmost restraint. A nuclear disaster— wherever it occurs — could have devastating global consequences.

Portugal remains concerned with the uncertainty surrounding Iran's nuclear programme, particularly as the Agency cannot confirm its peaceful nature. This is a clear risk for the international community. We are encouraged by recent developments and urge Iran to resume full cooperation with the IAEA and all relevant parties to pursue dialogue and diplomacy.



MISSÃO PERMANENTE DE PORTUGAL  
VIENA

We also welcome the Agency's continued efforts to address long-outstanding issues in **Syria**.

Mr. President,

Portugal is a strong supporter of the **universalization of the NPT**. We call on all countries that have not yet done so to adhere to it without delay, for the sake of collective security. All States must comply in good faith with the rules and commitments arising from this framework.

Portugal also urges all countries to accept the **1999 amendment to Article VI** of the Statute. It is essential to address the fair claims of the so-called **arealess countries** and ensure equal treatment within this Agency.

Mr. President,

Portugal will participate actively **during this Conference**. Let me highlight three key activities:

1. As the current presidency of the **Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO)**, Portugal will participate in its activities, including a side event today on *"Strengthening Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulatory Infrastructures through Regional Cooperation and Next-Generation Professionals."* We encourage the Agency to continue supporting FORO — a model for promoting high standards of radiological protection, safety, and security in the Ibero-American region.
2. Tomorrow, Portugal, jointly with Brazil, and the Agency will co-host a side event on *"Integrating Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) Residues into the Circular Economy."*
3. Also tomorrow, Portugal will deliver a presentation at **EURATOM's stand** on *"25 Years of Environmental Remediation in Portugal: Caring for the Past to Challenge the Future."*

These last 2 events reflect our commitment to protecting all persons in Portugal from ionizing radiation, through national programs for radioactive waste management and environmental monitoring. Our first **National Action Plan on Radon** is also under implementation.

Mr. President,



MISSÃO PERMANENTE DE PORTUGAL  
VIENA

**Since the last General Conference**, Portugal has maintained consistent and diverse cooperation with the IAEA.

Under the **Technical Cooperation Programme**, our **Country Programme Framework (CPF)** has been extended until the end of 2026, and preparations for the next one are underway.

Portugal has formally pledged **€308,700** to the **2026 Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF)**. We are both a contributor and a beneficiary of the TCF, and we see it as a core element of the IAEA's work and a contribution to achieving the SDGs.

In this context, Portugal has hosted this year 2 **regional capacity-building initiatives**, and will still host a third one in December. These initiatives reflect our commitment to capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and advancing safety standards.

Portugal has also hosted **IAEA scientific visits** for experts from other Member States, helping to strengthen regulatory capacities.

The IAEA **Collaborative Centre** at the University of Coimbra's Institute for Nuclear Sciences Applied to Health (**ICNAS**) was renewed this year. Deputy Director General Najat Mokhtar visited in July, highlighting its work in research, development, and production of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals.

Portugal continues to meet its obligations under **international nuclear conventions**. In March, we participated in the **Joint Convention Review Meeting**, where our performance in **spent fuel and radioactive waste management** was recognized as a good one. We also submitted our National Report under the **Convention on Nuclear Safety** in August, ahead of the 2026 review cycle.

Mr. President,

An independent and well-resourced **regulatory system** is essential for radiation protection and nuclear safety. Two national regulators are part of our delegation: the **Portuguese Environment Agency** and the **Health Regulatory Entity**.

We thank the IAEA for its missions to Portugal and the valuable recommendations provided to improve our system, especially in radioactive waste management and professional training.



MISSÃO PERMANENTE DE PORTUGAL  
VIENA

Portuguese experts have also participated in **IAEA review services** abroad, including IRRS missions to **Ghana, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand**. Later this year, another Portuguese expert will join an **ORPAS mission to Jordan**.

Mr. President,

To conclude, Portugal remains deeply committed to strengthening our cooperation with the IAEA and supportive of its mandate and the peaceful use of nuclear technologies across fields such as public health, agriculture, food security, water management, environmental protection, and the fight against climate change and pollution.

I thank you.