



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STATEMENT

**69th GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

AMBASSADOR

ŽARKO OBRADOVIĆ

**HEAD OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE
OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

Vienna, 15 September 2025

Mister President,

Distinguished Director-General, Mister Grossi

Your Excellencies,

Respected Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

First and foremost, I am honored to have the opportunity to address you on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia at the 69th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference. I also wish to express my deep appreciation for the fruitful cooperation between our country and the IAEA, which plays a vital role in advancing radiation and nuclear safety and security in the Republic of Serbia. Thus, I wish to affirm full commitment of the Republic of Serbia to the work of the Secretariat and the IAEA fundamental principles and goals governing safe and secure use of nuclear energy, especially considering our strong and traditional orientation towards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the well-being of every individual and of society as a whole.

In this regard, I would like to underline the Republic of Serbia's steadfast adherence to continuous development of its legislative and regulatory framework in the field of radiation and nuclear safety and security in line with the international standards and the EU *acquis*. In doing so, the Republic of Serbia reaffirms its full support of the IAEA efforts towards further development of the international standards and relevant international legal documents.

In addition, in light of numerous activities that the Republic of Serbia is carrying out in the field of radiation and nuclear safety and security, I would like to emphasize in particular, that in November 2024, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Energy, which, after 35 years, repealed the Law prohibiting the construction of nuclear power plants.

The Republic of Serbia supports the view that nuclear energy is recognized as a key component of the global strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensuring energy security, increasing energy resilience, and promoting long-term sustainable development and transition to clean energy.

I would additionally like to emphasize that the Republic of Serbia remains dedicated to global peace, security and development in general. Such policies are in line with the IAEA programmes and activities in the process of enhancing the effective application of nuclear safeguards in line with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and universal efforts towards non-proliferation regime. In addition, the Republic of Serbia places the highest priority on combating nuclear terrorism, and strongly supports the international community in implementing the measures to deter illicit trafficking of nuclear material and other radiation sources, especially by strengthening their proper physical protection and retrieval of orphan sources under regulatory control.

The public health care, environmental protection, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technologies in support of global peace, prosperity and welfare of future generations, now more than ever, remain prime considerations of our country. In this

regard, the Republic of Serbia will continue to attend to its obligations arising from the relevant international conventions and documents, especially the Code of Conduct on the safety and security of radiation sources, as a legally non-binding instrument, as well as the Guidance on the import and export of radioactive sources and the Guidance on the management of disused sealed radioactive sources, bearing in mind the relevance the IAEA attaches to these documents in terms of the safety and security of radiation sources in general.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Serbia fully approves of the IAEA Annual Report for 2024, as well as the Programme and the Budget for 2026. We can proudly reaffirm that the IAEA professional and financial support to our country is a key element for safe and secure use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, proper radiation protection measures and reinforcing national regulatory infrastructure in line with the international principles, recommendations and standards.

The technical cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the IAEA is currently carried out through monitoring and evaluation of four new and five existing national projects, and a significant number of both new and existing regional projects, as well as support in future development of nuclear power program through TC interregional projects. We are also participating in other technical meetings, conferences, Coordinated Research Activities, specialized missions and other activities organized by the other IAEA departments.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude on the IAEA support in the field of human health – primarily nuclear medicine and radionuclide therapy, radiopharmaceutical production, control of transboundary spread of animal diseases, improvement of radiation safety, which, bearing in mind the possibility to cooperate with the IAEA experts, has been of great importance for the Republic of Serbia. At the same time, we have completed a number of consultancy and expert meetings, trainings and participations in the international meetings. The Republic of Serbia, through its relevant institutions, has also hosted multiple fellowships and regional workshops, and our experts have actively participated in a number of expert missions within the IAEA TC Programme.

We take particular pride in the fact that the Republic of Serbia will join the IAEA Rays of Hope initiative, and that the Institute of Oncology of Vojvodina from Sremska Kamenica will be designated as an Anchor Center. On the margins of the 69th General Conference, the Institute signed a cooperation agreement with the IAEA, committing, thus, to providing expert, educational and technical support to developing countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing my statement, let me reassure you that the Republic of Serbia remains committed to further development of its cooperation with the IAEA so that the national professionals and experts could accept and adopt good practice and apply expert knowledge, and significantly improve radiation and nuclear safety and security in general.

Thank you!