

National Statement

SLOVAKIA

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Delivered by the Head of Delegation

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Chairperson

Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic

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Mr. President,

1. Let me start by congratulating you on your election as the President of this session of the General Conference. It is a privilege for my country that you are at the steering wheel of this Conference, and I assure you of our delegation's full support in discharging your duties.
2. Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the EU. Allow me to make a few additional remarks in a national capacity.

Mr. President,

3. Slovakia strongly supports the IAEA and its mandate. Fulfilling its independent and impartial role is even more important in the current volatile international security environment, which poses many challenges for the work of the Agency.
4. Slovakia commends the IAEA and Director General's steadfast dedication and tireless efforts in providing assistance to Ukraine to uphold nuclear safety and security, for implementing safeguards and maintaining a continuous presence at all Ukrainian nuclear sites. We deem it highly important that the Agency continues to offer impartial assessment of nuclear safety and security situation in Ukraine and to consistently deliver up-to-date and impartial information. Let me also express appreciation for the courage of the IAEA staff, which operates under such difficult conditions.
5. We continue to be deeply concerned over the persisting precarious state of nuclear safety and security at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), which continues to be illegally occupied by the Russian forces, and that six of the Seven Pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict remain fully or partially compromised. We also stress that the five principles established by the Director General must be respected. Slovakia joins others in calling on Russia to cease its aggression against Ukraine and we reiterate our solidarity with Ukraine and support its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.
6. We attach great importance to the Agency's verification and monitoring activities in relation to Iran's nuclear program. It is now important to implement in concrete actions the agreement on Practical Modalities for the Implementation of Safeguards in Iran, which was signed in Cairo last week. This agreement should be a springboard for

further steps from Iran to fully implement its safeguard's obligations, cooperate with the Agency and to engage meaningfully with the E3's resolution 2231 extension offer.

7. As we approach the 2026 NPT Review Conference, maintaining the integrity of the NPT regime is of crucial importance. Slovakia remains committed to the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, and has a key role in advancing peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The IAEA safeguards system is its indispensable element, with Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol constituting the current verification standard.

Nuclear Power, Energy and Climate Change

Mr. President,

8. With the capacity to tackle global energy challenges, nuclear energy continues to demonstrate its stable and crucial role also in Slovakia's energy mix. As a carbon-free source that complements the renewables, nuclear energy will continue to serve as a vital pillar of our national energy policy in years ahead. Thanks to our nuclear power plants, Slovakia is proud to maintain one of the cleanest energy mixes in the world, with nuclear accounting for more than 60% of our total electricity generation.
9. Ongoing progress continues to drive developments in our nuclear power programme. Most recently, Unit 3 of the Mochovce NPP is currently in the commissioning phase and operating at full capacity, while Unit 4 has completed hot hydro test and is scheduled for commissioning in 2026. As part of our efforts to achieve power self-reliance, we remain actively engaged in advancing our existing nuclear fleet, and complement these efforts by preparing for SMR deployment and exploring other innovative technologies.

Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Security and Non-proliferation

Mr. President,

10. Slovakia remains dedicated to fostering the peaceful use of nuclear energy, with safety and security at the forefront. We commend the irreplaceable role of the IAEA in promoting robust and sustainable nuclear safety, radiation protection and security framework globally, in particular through the development of the IAEA Safety Standards

and security guidance. We manifest our strong adherence to these principles *inter alia* by regularly inviting the Agency's peer review and advisory services missions. At present, preparations are underway to host the IRRS follow-up mission in 2026, aimed at evaluating the progress made in addressing the findings of the 2022 IRRS mission.

Nuclear Applications, Technology & Technical Cooperation

11. We commend the Agency's role in harnessing the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy across diverse areas, from power applications to human health. Slovakia attaches great importance to the essential role of nuclear technology in meeting socio-economic objectives, achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), and the 2030 Agenda. The IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme continues to benefit Slovakia in these efforts, particularly through capacity building and knowledge transfer. We therefore reiterate our support for a demand-driven, efficient, need-based, and non-discriminatory programme.

12. I am also pleased to announce that the Slovak Nuclear and Decommissioning Company (JAVYS) that has been supporting the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management since 2021, will be re-designated as an IAEA Collaborating Centre later this week. I am fully convinced that JAVYS's extensive experience and technical expertise will continue to be a valuable contribution to the Agency's work and cooperation with other Member States.

Mr. President,

13. To conclude, Slovakia wishes to reaffirm its strong and continuous support to the IAEA in effectively delivering its statutory functions. We stand ready to work together to ensure responsible, safe and secure use of the atom to benefit of all.

Thank you.