



Statement by
Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia
H.E. Melita Župevc
at the Sixty-ninth Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference
Vienna, 15 September 2025

Mr President, dear Peter,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your appointment. You can count on our full support.

Slovenia aligns itself with EU statement, to which I would like to add a couple of remarks in my national capacity.

Mr President,

Firstly, I would like- to commend Director General Grossi and his team for their work over the past year. We highly appreciate the crucial role of the Agency in these increasingly challenging times.

We are facing major proliferation challenges, such as nuclear proliferation, proliferation of missile technologies, concerns regarding emerging technologies and dual-use and the weakening of international non-proliferation and arms control regimes.

On the other hand, there is a growing global interest in nuclear technology and energy, driven by the increasing demand for electricity, the urgent imperative to combat climate change, and the heightened importance of energy security. Concurrently, the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology are assuming an increasingly significant role in enhancing human well-being and sustainable development.

Our duty is to preserve and strengthen existing commitments, reinforce our non-proliferation architecture and start building trust among ourselves.

Mr President,

Slovenia is a well-established nuclear nation, with a distinguished tradition in the peaceful application of nuclear technology. Slovenia's nuclear programme is centered on the Krško Nuclear Power Plant, which has been operating safely for over 40 years. It is recognized as one of the safest nuclear power plants worldwide, known for its excellent performance.

Construction of Slovenia's national repository for low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste at Vrbina, near Krško, is progressing well and in line with the planned schedule, with commissioning foreseen in the coming years. Excavation works under the first phase will be completed by the end of this year.

At the same time, Slovenia is actively discussing the future of nuclear energy. To achieve emission reduction targets and progress towards carbon neutrality, the country has adopted several strategic documents guiding the long-term peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The Prime Minister's cabinet ensures top-level coordination of all activities related to a potential new nuclear facility in the Krško area, where spatial planning is currently underway. Slovenia is committed to ensuring the highest safety and transparency standards, with upcoming procedures that will actively involve the public and engage international partners.

Mr President,

Despite the revival of nuclear energy and nuclear technology, we remain deeply concerned about the status of Iran's nuclear programme and the continued development of DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. The only solution is the diplomatic one.

Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and subsequent developments created entirely new challenges for the existing international nuclear safety and security regime. We have nuclear facilities in the middle of an armed conflict. New and changing security challenges show that the existing traditional approach to nuclear security is not sufficient to address threats in a comprehensive, responsive and, above all, effective manner.

In November 2024 Slovenia hosted an expert level workshop in Ljubljana aimed to review the existing nuclear security doctrine in crisis situations. The validity of the existing prohibitions is undisputed; however, there is the need to strengthen the existing nuclear security framework.

Mr President,

In recent years, Slovenia was very active in steering the informal Group of Friends, aiming at resolving the long-standing question the Arealess States within IAEA framework. Slovenia would like to thank Ambassador of Argentina for all endeavours he has put afterwards in resolving this important issue.

Slovenia's mission remains to help ensure sovereign equality of all Member States within the Agency. On that note, another question that is long overdue is the entry into force of the amendment to Article VI. I am pleased to inform you that Slovenia, together with the Republic of Korea, the EU, the United Kingdom, Brazil and Namibia, is this year again organising a side event in the margins of the conference on 18th of September to facilitate the early entry into force of the amendment to Article VI. Collective efforts and the principle of sovereign equality are at the forefront of these issues. We appeal to those Member States that have not yet ratified the amended Article VI to do so without delay.

Mr President,

In conclusion, on behalf of my Government, I would like to reiterate Slovenia's firm commitment to continue to provide the Agency with its fullest support. We must work together to prevent nuclear conflicts and disasters in order to benefit from the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Thank you.