

Statement by Mr. Aziz Nazar,

Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan

At the 69th session of the IAEA General Conference

15 to 19 September, Vienna

Mr. President,

Distinguished Director-General Grossi,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President and Vice-Presidents, please accept our congratulations on your appointments for the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. On behalf of our delegation I wish you success in your work.

The Director General and the IAEA staff are to be commended for their professional efforts in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and ensuring non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Tajikistan has been actively engaged in partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency on all matters of mutual interest since joining the organization in 2001.

Tajikistan has been receiving assistance from the IAEA in its endeavors to improve the capabilities of its oncology centers, which are instrumental in the delivery of cancer care. Now, Tajik medical professionals are capable of providing world-class treatment to our citizens as a result of the IAEA's resources and expertise, which are indispensable for the establishment of sophisticated oncological facilities. We have no doubt that the **Rays of Hope initiative** to support Member States will advance our shared objectives in the fight against cancer.

We are now better equipped to monitor and manage zoonotic diseases

thanks to the IAEA's ZODIAC Program. The ZNL has significantly enhanced our comprehension and management of zoonotic diseases, thereby guaranteeing a safer environment for both our livestock and human population.

Another area of mutual collaboration is the investigation of glacier-related hazards. Our expert's understanding of the challenges presented by glacier retreat and its implications for our water resources has been significantly improved by the IAEA's assistance in this field, particularly the expertise it has provided.

1We are committed to contributing to the Agency's operations to the fullest extent possible in order to ensure their successful execution.

Besides this, Central Asia has also actively engaged in regional cooperation, notably by hosting the National Liaison Officers (NLO) meeting in Dushanbe from 23 to 26 May 2023, and the NLO meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 14 to 16 May 2025, where, for the first time, all NLOs in the Technical Cooperation among Countries in Europe (TCEU) approved the **Strategic Framework for the Technical**

Cooperation Program in the Europe and Central Asia Region. In this regard, we call upon renaming the **Technical Cooperation Department of Europe to the Technical Cooperation Department of Europe and Central Asia** to better reflect the representation of countries in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The disposal of abandoned uranium mining and processing sites in Tajikistan, which include waste rock and tailing dumps, **remains a critical aspect of Tajikistan's collaboration with the IAEA.**

It should be noted that the Degmai tailings dump and all other radiation-hazardous objects in the city of Istiqlol have to be remediated immediately because of the high risk of emergency situations and the

detrimental effects they have on the environment and public health.

These locations are incorporated into the **Strategic Master Plan for Uranium Legacy Sites**, which is currently in its third phase and is being developed under the supervision of the IAEA.

Subsequently, the **Government of Tajikistan implementing the second state program for the 2025-2030 period** (the initial program was implemented from 2016 to 2024) to address the territories that were impacted by uranium mining.

We will work together to improve the remediation of the uranium production facilities and Tajikistan's collaboration with the IAEA will deepen our partnership on this issue.

Dear Colleagues,

Tajikistan places a high priority on upholding a robust regulatory framework to guarantee nuclear and radiation security, safety, and protections. Our relevant authority has consistently maintained compliance with both national and international standards by conducting regular inspections, implementing stringent safety measures, and ensuring that they are upheld.

2Protecting the public health and environment and fostering the peaceful use of nuclear technologies are both significantly influenced by effective regulation. Tajikistan is strengthening its nuclear security capabilities in order to prevent unauthorized access, theft, or misuse of nuclear and radioactive materials in collaboration with international partners, particularly the IAEA.

In compliance with international safety standards and best practices, our regulatory body's inspection role and oversight of remediation activities are essential.

The continuous monitoring and evaluation of these remediation efforts

are essential for reducing the risks posed by radioactive contamination and ensuring the long-term safety of the environment and public health.

Additionally, our regulatory body fulfills national obligations under the non-proliferation regime, encourages the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and does everything possible to ensure the implementation of safeguards agreements.

The Republic of Tajikistan inaugurated a new regional facility dedicated to the Scientific and Technical Support Organization (STSO) in October 2024, under the leadership of our President. Tajikistan's dedication to tackling the issues of nuclear and radiation safety, security, and protections is demonstrated by this initiative.

It is anticipated that the new facility will further improve the regulatory authority's capabilities and contribute to the creation of a secure and safer environment for our citizens. Our governing body is building this new facility as part of its work to make sure that all safeguards agreements are followed. This is done to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and meet our obligations under the non-proliferation regime.

In a significant development, on 23rd January 2025, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Safety and Security Agency of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan has been designated as an IAEA Collaborating Centre for Nuclear Security, focusing on capacity building, research, and training in nuclear security, further strengthening our ability to prevent unauthorized access, theft, or misuse of nuclear and radioactive materials for Tajikistan and Central Asia region.

Moreover, Tajikistan is home to a Regional Training Facility for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Non-Proliferation and Export Control, which has made a substantial contribution to capacity-building initiatives. This facility is crucial for the development of regional capacity

and has been providing training to representatives from regulatory authorities, operators, law enforcement agencies, military organizations, and other influential stakeholders.

3By providing training courses to effectively prevent the proliferation of WMDs and improve coordination among the regional responsible authorities, this facility enhances the region's capacity to enforce export controls and protect security.

Excellencies,

The issue of Member States **not belonging to any geographic area** has been disregarded since the founding of the IAEA, despite a clear directive of the Agency's Statute to ensure the sovereign equality of all its members.

We maintain the conviction that each member state should be **afforded equal opportunities to participate in all of the Agency's decision-making processes**, be elected to the Board of Governors, Bureau of the General Conference, and contribute to the Agency's work.

Tajikistan has submitted its instrument of ratification of the Amendment to Article 6 of the IAEA Statute to the depositary Government. We urge all Member States and the IAEA Secretariat to make a contribution to the resolution of the current issue and to take an action to restore the implementation of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and IAEA Statute.

I thank you.