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Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
Republic of Türkiye
IAEA 69. GENERAL CONFERENCE

Distinguished Chair, Dear Delegates,

It is a real honor to address this assembly on the occasion of the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I would like to begin by expressing Türkiye's sincere appreciation to Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi for his dedication and leadership in advancing nuclear safety, security, and cooperation worldwide. Türkiye acknowledges the agency's indispensable role as a facilitator of peaceful nuclear applications and a keeper of global nuclear governance.

Türkiye's national energy strategy rests on sustainable development, energy security and our commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2053. Nuclear energy plays a central role in this vision.

Our electricity demand will triple over the next three decades. To meet this rising demand we are increasing our electricity generation capacity on all fronts, including nuclear and renewables. By 2035, we aim to commission 7 GW of nuclear power and the capacity will expand to 20 GW by 2050 through integration of small modular reactors.

In line with the decisions made at COP29, Türkiye supports the international vision to triple global nuclear capacity by 2050.

We are equally committed to strengthening nuclear safety. Türkiye fulfills obligations under key international conventions and demonstrates its commitment to the Agency's work through its active participation in the Commission on Safety Standards and all relevant safety committees.

Our collaboration with the agency is a well-functioning one. We actively support the Agency's efforts to build capacity and share expertise. Our ministry and institutions have contributed to training courses, fellowships, workshops, and technical visits, and have recently completed successful projects aimed at enhancing regulatory functions and safety culture within our Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen nuclear scientific capacity for peaceful purposes, we are planning to use our research reactor at the Çekmece site more actively with the valuable support of the Agency.

Beyond electricity generation, Türkiye embraces nuclear science and technology as a multifaceted tool to advance human well-being. Through the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program, we enhance applications in food security, agriculture, industry, water management, health, and environmental protection.

In this regard, Türkiye is proud to have joined initiatives such as "Atoms4Food" and to have TENMAK, our research institutions, recognized as one of Agency's Collaborating Centers.

Distinguished Delegates,

As we look to the future, Türkiye remains committed to a close cooperation with the Agency and all member states to ensure safe, secure, and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for global prosperity.

Together, through shared responsibility and mutual support, we can harness nuclear energy's full potential to meet the challenges of climate change, energy security, and sustainable development.

I extend my best wishes for the success of this General Conference and look forward to our continued partnership.