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Communication dated 29 September 2016 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 60th regular session of the General Conference

1. The Director General has received a communication dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 60th regular session of the General Conference.
2. As requested by the Permanent Mission, the communication is circulated herewith for information.

**Right of reply of the
Republic of Armenia
at the 60th General Conference of IAEA**

Mr. President,

From the podium of IAEA General Conferences Armenia, along with number of other delegations, more than once has drawn the attention of IAEA Member States to the imperative of avoiding politicization of the work of the Agency. Unfortunately, some Member States are trying to use the IAEA platform for advancing their own narrow political and kinship agenda.

It is very disappointing that Turkey and Azerbaijan yet again leveled groundless charges against Armenia. We see concerns of Turkey and Azerbaijan over Armenian Nuclear Power Plant as politically motivated in line with the policy of these countries to undermine the economic development of Armenia. This policy is manifested in number of areas including in more than two decades long land blockade imposed by Turkey against Armenia.

The Armenian nuclear power plant has always had an excellent record of safety and close cooperation with all relevant structures of IAEA. The decision on extension of the life cycle of the Metsamor NPP was taken after thorough consultations with the IAEA and its international partners with a strong emphasis to ensuring its safety and security. Furthermore, Armenia closely cooperates on a regular basis with the International organizations and partner countries with regard to all nuclear energy issues. In particular, numerous IAEA's on-site inspections and assessment missions have reaffirmed Armenia's commitment in implementing its international obligations and the highest level of openness and transparency. No any non-compliance or deviation from the requirements of international treaties has been recorded.

In this context, Turkey which itself is located in the seismic zone and builds nuclear power plant should take the Armenian power plant as reference point for good practice instead of politicizing the issue.

By the same token, Azerbaijan by echoing Turkey and clearly demonstrating their kinship policy of one nation two states, uses non-verified and fabricated information on smuggling of nuclear and radiological materials in its propaganda war and spreads in the most distorted and misleading manner the unfounded accusations. These recycled and groundless allegations have nothing to do with the reality. The reports of numerous IAEA inspections and mission reports fully indicate the hollowness of these claims. In the meantime, it is very surprising that Azerbaijan in its statement is even questioning the professionalism, compliance and credibility of the results/conclusions of these on-site inspections and assessment missions carried out by IAEA.

It is very regrettable that Turkey and Azerbaijan joined each other in their further efforts of discrediting Armenia's reputation and questioning Armenia's right of peaceful use of nuclear energy and country's obligations on nuclear non-proliferation as a part of their joint economic and diplomatic warfare against Armenia.

As a responsible member of international community and strong supporter of the non-proliferation policies, Armenia reiterates its full compliance with the nonproliferation treaty and other relevant treaties, as well as IAEA safeguards agreements and additional protocol.

We kindly request the Secretariat that the stated position of Armenia be duly noted in the records of the meeting.

Thank you.