

STATEMENT
of HE. Dr. Mario Nobile, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Croatia to the United Nations and
International Organizations in Vienna

Mister President,

Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

First of all, let me express my congratulations to you, Mr. President, and to the members of the Bureau on the elections. Under your skilful and experienced guidance this session will undoubtedly achieve positive results and further contribute to the promotion of the goals of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Let me also most warmly welcome the new members of the IAEA, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Central African Republic, which became part of this big family since the forty-third regular session.

The vital interests of the Republic of Croatia in the field of nuclear energy were always compatible with the work and aim of the IAEA. Moreover, these interests in nuclear safety and radiation, safeguards and technical co-operation, as three major pillars, were embodied in close co-operation with the Agency.

Not only did my country develop a wide range of projects, which contributed to the safety and security in the management of nuclear energy, but it also harmonised its legislation with the Agency's standards and norms. In that spirit the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Agency, which was signed during the forty-second regular session of the IAEA, entered into force on 6 July 2000. Furthermore, Croatia was eagerly supporting the strivings to the achievement of consensus concerning the amendment of the Article VI of the Statute. As a sign of our further contribution to the work of the Agency, the Republic of Croatia informed the depositor of the Statute on 30 August 2000 that the internal conditions have been met for the (acceptance) (ratification) of the amendment of the Article VI. Being one of the first countries to finalize this procedure, we invite other member states to do the same and to speed up their processes of the ratification of the amended Article VI of the Statute.

We are also convinced that the adoption of the resolutions concerning the financing of the technical co-operation and the financing of safeguards will be a step towards more stable financing of the activities of the IAEA, as a prerequisite for its successful work.

Mister President,

The success of the NPT Review Conference in New York was welcomed all over the world. Perhaps it would be too pathetic to say that this conference was historical, but it will be marked as an inevitable milestone towards the better world free of nuclear threat. The active participation of the delegation of my country is also a sign that it is ready to contribute to the increased tasks that lay before the IAEA. It is to be mentioned that the priority of the new Government of the Republic of Croatia is the extension of the international co-operation in all fields, including those covered by the activities of the Agency.

In that regard let me point out that in June 2000 the 3rd International Conference on Nuclear Option in Countries With Small and Medium Electricity Grids took place in Dubrovnik in close co-operation with the IAEA. Among other achievements, this Conference launched an idea of regional comprehensive co-operation in radiation waste management field. One of the conclusions of the Conference was to offer submitted ideas, proposals and suggestions to the IAEA as a background for establishment of regional co-operation, i.e. to consider the establishment of regional projects in radioactive waste management.

Besides that, Croatia hosted several other meetings under auspices of the IAEA, while others are planned.

Regional co-operation in waste management is of special interest for Croatia, due to the co-ownership of the Krsko Nuclear Power Plant, built jointly on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. The operation of this NPP runs without major problems and I am convinced that not only the two countries, but also the Agency highly praise the results achieved in the safety and reliability operation. Some different opinions concerning the management of the facility are on the best way to be resolved, but they in no way ever threatened the safety and security issues.

The co-operation between Croatian research institutes, other relevant institutions and University in Zagreb on one hand and the Agency's Technical co-operation Programme is further increasing. The number of candidates who were granted fellowships and recommended for the training in Croatian institutions and the number of Croatian experts attending seminars and courses abroad is notable. I am sure that this increasing trend will go on in future.

The recent visit of the IAEA expert team, as well as the one scheduled later this year, will create a solid basis for offering the technical co-operation projects which will be even more focused on the needs of Croatia in accordance with the practice of the Agency. It is to be expected that their application will show good results in the fields of waste management, radiation protection, nuclear medicine and nuclear power, but also in the demining efforts.

Mister President,

Allow me to conclude by stressing the commitment of the Republic of Croatia to continue the co-operation with the Agency and with other member states, contributing to the main common goal — the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Thank you, Mister President.