

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

**STATEMENT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR OGNEN MALESKI,
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE FORTY-FOURTH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating Mr. Othman on his election to this responsible post. I believe that under his able guidance we will successfully end our deliberations. Appreciating the constant enlargement of the family of IAEA member states, I too wish to warmly welcome Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Central African Republic as new members of the Agency, which have decided to use nuclear energy in conformity with the principles of this organisation.

Mr. President,

At the outset it is my pleasure to announce that on its 11 September meeting the Board of Governors authorised the Director General to conclude and implement with the Republic of Macedonia a Safeguards Agreement and Associated Protocol. This is yet another proof of the enormous importance the Republic of Macedonia attaches to the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. Once the Safeguard Agreement is concluded we are ready to take up the issue of the Additional Protocol.

Before proceeding any further I would like to convey to the Director General my country's unwavering support for Agency's dedicated work as a catalyst for the development of nuclear technology; a recognised authority on nuclear safety; and as an instrument for the verification of nuclear nonproliferation. In his presentation we noted with satisfaction the part saying that technical cooperation programming has achieved tangible socioeconomic impact in areas of Member States priority. On managing Agency's efficiency and effectiveness we welcome Director General's concept of "one-house". We are confident it will lead to better co-ordination, better alignment of programmes, a more streamlined Secretariat structure and a more effective outreach policy.

As for the overall cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and the Agency I am pleased to assess it as very satisfying. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia appreciates very much the most valuable technical assistance provided through IAEA. In addition, we highly praise Agency's willingness to reflect the needs of all its member states. Thanks to Agency's the Republic of Macedonia has developed safety standards in conformity with the recommendations and standards set by the Agency and has upgraded its own safety infrastructure. This particularly goes for country's legislation and exercise of state supervision. As a result, the new national Law on Ionizing Radiation Protection has already

been drafted and the preparations for its promulgation and establishing of a National Regulatory Body are well underway.

The National Country Programme consists of projects in the fields of nuclear medicine, animal production, water irrigation to improve nutrition, and non-destructive testing techniques in industry. The projects for the forthcoming cycle were defined with the assistance of JABA pre-project formulation mission. We also benefit from participating in IAEA regional TC projects. I should also like to mention the preparation of the new CPF in close co-operation with the Agency.

The Macedonian Delegation wishes to underline the particular importance of measures for strengthening and improving of regional co-operation. In this regard, we are grateful to the Agency for having approved the Regional Project on Prespa Lake Phenomenon, which is being implemented by Macedonia, Albania and Greece.

I would also like to thank the Agency for training our experts through scientific visits and fellowships for various courses and seminars. In this regard, I would like to call your attention to the joint efforts with the Agency to build national capacity for organising training courses for radiation protection in industrial and medical radiography. The Republic of Macedonia is willing to host specialists from the neighbouring countries. For these activities the support by the TC Department will be extremely appreciated.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, on behalf of my Delegation I wish to ask the Agency to continue its mission in furthering the utilisation of nuclear energy for mutual benefit and enhanced cooperation, with all nations, particularly with our neighboring countries. I would like to reaffirm my country's willingness to remain a reliable member of the Agency in facing the challenges of the new Millennium.

Thank you, Mr. President.