

**STATEMENT BY**  
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**RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE**  
**OF TURKEY**  
**TO THE IAEA**  
**on the occasion of the**  
**44<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE**  
**GENERAL CONFERENCE**  
**OF THE IAEA**

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the Turkish Delegation, for being elected as President of the 44<sup>th</sup> General Conference. My delegation is confident that under your able guidance this year's session will also end in success. Similarly, we would like to congratulate other members of the Bureau for their election.

My delegation also extends a warm welcome to Azerbaijan, Central African Republic and Tajikistan who have recently become members of the Agency. We are looking forward to work closely with them.

Mr. President,

The year 1999 was marked by the approval of the Medium Term Strategy, which will constitute a guidance in the forthcoming ten years. The climate of cooperation and the spirit of consensus which reigned among the Members were the main elements for the achievement of this positive result. In spite of the well known financial difficulties, 1999 has also witnessed new developments, in the areas of the three pillars. These developments are clearly mentioned in the Annual Report. I must emphasize the role played by the excellent leadership of Mr. Mohammed ElBaradei, the Director General and his team in the accomplishment of progress in the domains of safety, technology and verification.

Mr. President,

The events which occurred last year showed once more the importance of the Safety pillar. The risks that we face by the non-compliance of the safety rules do not limit themselves to geographic borders. The readiness of the Agency to prevent events and accidents and its speedy responses in emergency situations are highly commendable. The successful conclusion of the first review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, assistance provided by the Agency to four countries, including mine, in

emergency cases, activities carried out for the safety of reactors in Central and Eastern Europe, the establishment of the Transport Safety Appraisal Service are concrete examples of Agency's concern on the Safety pillar.

Naturally, Radiation Safety is another concern. We welcome the establishment of the Peer Review Teams which will have an important impact in the improvement of legal and regulatory framework and in training personnel. The completion of the Safety Guide on radiation protection in medical exposure constitutes a very useful step forward. The Action Plan prepared for the safe management of disused radioactive sources which entered into force starting from the year 2000, is another development which will alleviate the concerns of many Member States. My delegation is happy for having contributed to the preparation of this Plan.

Mr. President,

On the issue of the safe transport of radioactive and nuclear materials. The distinguished delegates will recall that the resolution 13 in 1998 and the resolution 11 in 1999 which were sponsored by Turkey, have constituted important steps in tackling with the safety of transport. Indeed, they have provided for the realization of the survey by the Secretariat to assess the conformity of the national transport regulations with those of the Agency and have created a legal basis for the establishment of the Transport Safety Appraisal Service which will be more and more useful in the improvement of national regulations and their implementation. We might also say that they have opened the way to a confidence building measure between the shipping states and the potentially affected states by creating an information exchange mechanism between them, upon request. Our desire, at this stage, is to keep what has already been acquired by the previous resolutions alive and to give to the Agency the necessary impulse and encouragement to pursue their improvement in practical terms. This year also there will be a draft resolution on the subject and we are prepared to support it. By the same token, I am pleased to announce that the Turkish Authorities have decided to apply to the Transport Safety Appraisal Service of the Agency in order to have an evaluation of Turkey's national regulations and applications in the field of safe transport of radioactive materials.

Mr. President,

The key role that the LAEA Safeguards play in the nuclear non-proliferation regime is well confirmed. The previous NPT Review Conferences reaffirmed repeatedly that the IAEA is the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring States' compliance with their commitments under the Treaty. 1999 Annual Report's assessment that the Agency did not find any evidence of non-compliance by the States Parties on their safeguards obligations is an encouraging sign. However, this positive outcome does not reduce the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means. In view of its proximity to the regions where it is generally considered that there is a high potential of proliferation, Turkey attaches importance to the speedy entry into force of the strengthened safeguards measures. Accordingly, Turkey has signed the Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement recently and now is taking steps for its early ratification.

As it was stated by Mr. ElBaradei at the last NPT Review Conference "*the verification, no matter how good it is, can not work in a vacuum*". Therefore the support of other elements of the non-proliferation regime, such as the export control arrangements are needed. The main responsibility for efficient international cooperation for prevention of proliferation lies mainly with supplier countries. The

countries on the routes of nuclear related transfers should as well shoulder their responsibility and cooperate with the suppliers to prevent unauthorized access to these goods and technologies. In line with these thoughts, after establishing at the national level the necessary export control regulations, Turkey joined the Zangger Committee and more recently the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Within the framework of safeguards issue the situation in two countries is of particular concern to us. While maintaining our hopes and expectations on the new climate which started to prevail in the Korean Peninsula, we associate ourselves with the invitation addressed to Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the international community to comply with the safeguards agreement that it has signed with the IAEA and to closely cooperate with the Agency. Similarly, Iraq has to abide by the Resolution 1284 of the Security Council and extend its collaboration to the newly established Commission and the LABA.

The recent NPT-2000 Conference held in New York offered the first opportunity to observe in detail the operation of the Treaty, since its indefinite extension. We welcome the adoption of the Final Document by consensus after one month of intense negotiations and two Preparatory Committee meetings which failed to reach consensus on substantial issues. We note with satisfaction that 187 countries, once again, confirmed the continued validity and importance of the nuclear non-proliferation regime as established by the Treaty.

Curbing and preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear materials is another means of combating proliferation. We invite States to implement the IAEA's recommendations on the physical protection of nuclear materials and to undertake a review of the Convention on the Physical Protection with the aim of the strengthening and broadening its scope. Since two years Turkey has accelerated its compliance with the JABA requirements on physical protection.

Another aspect of the illicit trafficking is the movement of radioactive sources used in industry and medicine. The registration of this kind of sources by the exporter/importer countries reciprocally can provide definite control of the sources.

One of the challenges faced by the developing world is the need for increased production of electricity through a variety of means in conformity with the philosophy of sustainable development. The renewable energy sources which constitute alternatives to fossil fuels have low energy density to be used for long term large scale purposes. Therefore, despite of its higher capital cost, nuclear power is still one of the most envisaged options for the next decades.

Turkey is also interested in nuclear power plants. But due to its economic reform program, the Turkish Government decided to postpone the realization of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant. However, this decision does not represent a deviation from the nuclear option. In due time, nuclear power plants will once again be on our agenda.

Any country considering a nuclear power program should have a national energy plan satisfying the defined objectives of the national energy strategy. We hope that the studies on Small and Medium Sized Reactors (SMIRs) will contain elements which will assist the developing countries to obtain more accurately the targets of their energy strategy. The intention of our authorities is to contribute to the study on the SMIRs and on the innovative reactor technologies.

In the context of technology one aspect of importance is the public understanding of the use of nuclear energy. Especially in the countries, which have to decide on having nuclear power plants for the first

time, the waste problem is presented by anti-nuclear lobbies as a complex one without solution. As the improving technology renders it possible to store the nuclear wastes without any hazards to the environment and as in some countries final waste deposition may be implemented in the near future, we think the Agency should have a role in helping the national authorities for educating public opinions.

The LABA has been devoting more time and effort to the issue of nuclear research centers (NRCs) during the recent years. Many research centers have developed nuclear expertise on the whole spectrum of nuclear fields through setting up and operating large nuclear facilities such as research reactors, accelerators and fuel cycle facilities, etc. By virtue of their multidisciplinary nature NRCs have also been strategic elements of technology development in many countries and a number of industries have benefited from their association with these centers. Indeed the Agency document entitled “The Nuclear Research Centers in 21~ Century” emphasizes the importance of the NRCs in promoting the application of nuclear techniques and for the active role they play in providing training facilities to the young scientists and engineers on nuclear sciences, also in this new Century. As the statute of the LABA mentions that the Agency should seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, we think the Agency should have a statutory responsibility in assisting the NRCs in the fulfillment of their role, by collecting and providing information on the global and regional benefits of nuclear technology. With this in mind, my delegation is submitting this year a draft resolution under the Agenda item 18, entitled “Strengthening the Cooperation between Nuclear Research Centers”. Our sincere belief is that this draft resolution, if approved, will strengthen the effectiveness of the Agency’ s activities in the cooperation between the NRCs. We strongly hope that this draft will obtain the support of the Member States.

The role of irradiation as a sanitary treatment of food and agricultural commodities was highlighted at a Conference prepared by the IABA, FAO and WHO in Turkey, in October 1999. As the Montreal Protocol promised to phase out the total use of chemicals in food preservation by the year 2005, food irradiation will prevail more and more as a means for conservation. The LABA is expected to make more research in developing food irradiation techniques and improvement of food safety.

Nuclear techniques in medicine are widely used also in Turkey. Increasing importance of these applications on human health implies the setting and improvement of much higher quality standards. The assistance and guidance of the Agency on that matter will certainly facilitate the universal dissemination of quality assurance concept for the use of these techniques in medicine.

The IABA should continue to help developing Member States to establish and/or improve their scientific and technical infrastructures through Coordinated Research Programs (CRPs). We believe that they are the front runners of Technical Cooperation projects. This has proved to be one of the most effective ways of disseminating and exchanging information on recent developments in nuclear related fields. Thus, sources must be secured to increase the number of Coordinated Research Programs.

Finally, Mr. President,

I will be failing my duty if I do not mention here my delegation’ s deep appreciation for the LABA activities in the field of Technical Cooperation. The wide spectrum of the areas, under which countries got assistance, cooperated with the Agency and collaborated among themselves through the Agency ranges from human health to nuclear safety. The coordination between the technical Departments and the Technical Cooperation Department still needs to be improved. This should be a concerted action

from both sides. 50 % of Technical Cooperation program budget is under footnote-A concept. Some of these projects are later upgraded to hardcore projects. Criteria for upgrading should be clearly defined with the participation of technical Departments.

The dimensions of financial requirements of such a wide spectrum of activities are evidently quite large. The provision of the technical cooperation needs of developing countries is made through unsatisfactory voluntary contributions. My delegation is concerned that the continuation of this situation will hamper the well-appreciated technical cooperation operations of the Agency. Therefore it is an utmost necessity that Member States abide by their pledges.

In this context, I have the pleasure to announce that Turkey is pledging a total of 316,820 Us-s to the Technical Cooperation Fund for the year 2001. This figure corresponds exactly to its share calculated by the Secretariat.

Thank you, Mr. President.