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PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
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VJENË

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

**Statement of the Albanian Delegation
to the 52nd Session of the General Conference of the IAEA
29 September – 04 October 2008**

Mr. President,

Allow me, please, to join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election as President of the 52nd Session of the General Conference of the IAEA, as well as all the other newly elected officials. Being confident that under your guidance the Conference will accomplish its work successfully, I would like to assure you of the full constructive support of the Albanian delegation. Let me also warmly welcome the new Member States for joining the family of the Agency, and we look forward to working with them.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

Albania has aligned itself with the Statement of the European Union; therefore, I would limit my remarks to a few issues of particular interest to my country.

1. Technical cooperation. It is one of the most efficient uses of resources for Member States. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities is of great interest for all Member States, Albania included. We are happy to witness that the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF), in 2007, reached a record of \$83.6 million, while the rate of attainment increased to 95.6%. The target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2009 is set at \$ 85m, thus better responding to the needs of the Member States. The Albanian Government is

seriously committed to fulfil all its obligations with regard to the Regular Budget and to pay the share of the TCF target in full and on time.

The Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques continue to make substantive contributions in human health, agriculture, water resource management and environment. Albania is involved in several national and regional TC projects, such as:

- Monitoring of Environmental Radioactivity, particularly in the assessment of marine environment, and monitoring of air pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Improvement of the clinical practice in radiation oncology as well as the quality of radiotherapy services.

As regards the regional cooperation, good progress is also made in:

- Education and training in support of radiation protection infrastructures.
- Strengthening of national infrastructures for the control of radiation sources.
- Upgrading national capabilities in controlling public exposure.

Albania will continue to be a beneficiary partner of the **PACT project (Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy)**. The Albanian Government highly appreciates the Agency's contribution and assistance, and is fully committed to strengthen cancer control activities in the country.

The nuclear power and non-power technology applications have a clear perspective in Albania. We are conscious that the nuclear technology transfer and implementation is a long process and the Agency's cooperation and assistance is important and required for many years to come.

The novelty of this close cooperation with the Agency is that for the first time, the Albanian Government is seriously taking into consideration the possibility of exploring the use of nuclear technology for power generation. Initial steps are undertaken, and the consultations with the Agency are on the right track.

2. Nuclear security. The fight against organized crime and terrorism has been and still remains a top priority for the Albanian Government. Border management and border control has greatly improved and strengthened in all border check points, as well as along the green and blue borders. Within this framework, the IAEA has been providing advisory services to establish the necessary infrastructure to protect nuclear and other radioactive materials from theft and diversion, as well as from illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials. Albania is part of the Agency's global plan to fight against nuclear terrorism, and I assure you that the

Albanian Government remains fully committed and dedicated to successfully implement this plan.

Mr. President,

Albania pays great attention to the importance of the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement. We believe that it is a fundamental instrument which, if fully implemented, could strengthen the IAEA's investigative powers to verify compliance with NPT safeguards obligations and could provide the IAEA with the ability to act quickly on any indicators of undeclared nuclear materials, facilities and activities.

The Albanian Government has signed the Additional protocol and is in the process of ratifying it. I wish also to inform the General Conference that Albania is taking all the legislative measures to complete and adopt a comprehensive national atomic law, which would also include safeguards related issues, as well as the relevant structures to ensure high executive leadership and control over all nuclear and radiation obligations, requirements and standards.

Finally, Mr. President,

I wish to point out that Albania is a Member of the Board of Governors since last year. During this year, the Board of Governors has discussed many important issues, sometimes very delicate ones. I assure you Mr. President, as well as all the distinguished participants in the General Conference, that my country's principled position has always aimed at strengthening the Agency's role, at strengthening peace and stability, cooperation and commonsense. We strongly believe that this is the goal of existence of our Agency, and Albania will continue to provide its modest contribution to all issues related to the future of the IAEA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Gjini', written in a cursive style.

I thank You Mr. President.