



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

STATEMENT

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

TO THE 52. SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Mr. President,

It is a great pleasure for me to join other distinguished speakers and, on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia, to extend to you my sincere congratulation on your election as the President of the 52. Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In wishing you successful accomplishment of your responsible task, let me assure You, Mr. President and the other members of the Bureau, of the full support of the Macedonian Delegation.

I would like to warmly welcome the membership of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Sultanate of Oman and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

I would also like to emphasize that the Republic of Macedonia fully associates itself with the Statement of the European Union.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Macedonia has joined the crucial instruments marking the milestones of the international efforts to strengthen the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities. We are committed to further strengthening of the national security system, mechanisms and cooperation

on international level. The Republic of Macedonia paid particular attention to strengthen the institutional capacities against illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. In that respect, corresponding equipment at all border crossings has been installed and efficient system of reporting and enforcement is in place. In this regard, next week Macedonia is going to host a Sub-Regional Training Course Radiation Safety for Customs and Regulatory Authorities.

Assisted by the Agency, we have made significant step towards compliance with the international safety standards. We have established an independent Radiation Safety Directorate the results of which are evident. The further assistance by the Agency shall be focused on drafting of the remaining regulations. It is expected that very soon, the Central Storage for Low and Medium Radioactive Waste will be established.

We shall continue the successful technical co-operation between my country and the Agency, from which we have benefited a lot. I avail myself of the opportunity to express appreciation to the staff of the Europe TC Section for their assistance in the implementation of our national technical co-operation program.

The national TC Programme for the next project cycle is focused on upgrading the diagnostic procedures in nuclear medicine, improved implementation of food standards and strengthening the capabilities of the radiation safety services. As usually, the projects were jointly evaluated with the pre-project formulation mission dispatched by the Agency.

The application of nuclear technologies in the field of medicine are still considered of great importance for improving human health. The Macedonian Government decided to support the Project on establishing of PET Centre with national contribution of EUR 4 Mill. It is considered as Model Project for which the support by the Agency in expert services and training of staff is of crucial importance.

Based on the so far cooperation with the Agency, we have upgraded some of our institutions into centers of excellence, in which experts from the region are accepted for training. In future, we shall be pleased to host more foreign participants at training programs in Macedonian institutions.

In this way we reaffirm our commitment to the Agency's activities for strengthening of the regional co-operation.

My Government, in spite of the restrictions encountered by the national Budget, has always paid the full share to the Technical Co-operation Fund and the Agency's regular budget. In order to show its full commitment to the TC Programme, so far, we have made several extra-budgetary contributions.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, on behalf of my Delegation, I would like once again to congratulate the Director General and his staff for the excellent work done during the last year. Let me assure you of my country's full support and continuing active partnership for the current activities of the Agency and those stipulated at this Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President