



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

STATEMENT

**BY MS. LINDITA KJAZIMI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
TO THE 53. SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE
Vienna, 14 - 18.09.2009**

Thank You Madame President,

Congratulation on your election as the President of the 53. Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia let me assure you, Madame President and all other elected General Conference officers, of the full support of the Macedonian Delegation in accomplishing of Your responsible task.

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome the membership of Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Rwanda to the Agency.

The Republic of Macedonia fully aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union delivered at this Conference by the distinguished Representative from Sweden.

I wish to express appreciation of Dr. Mohamed El-Baradei, the outgoing Director General of IAEA for his excellent leadership of the Agency over the last decade. The Nobel Prize in 2005 was awarded to the right person and organization. At the same time I congratulate H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano, the new Director General. I am convinced that his experience will help the Agency to tackle the challenges of the future and I would like to assure Mr. Amano of the Macedonian full support.

Madamme President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Living in the world under threat of nuclear terrorism and other actions involving nuclear materials is a reality. Hence, the role of the IAEA is of crucial importance. Aware that the primary responsibility for security rests with the Member State, my country has joined the instruments marking the milestones in the international efforts to strengthen non-proliferation, nuclear verification and export control. It is my pleasure to inform the General Conference that the Macedonian Parliament last week ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

The fact that the Republic of Macedonia was selected as a recipient country among the countries eligible to receive support under the EU-Joint Action IV proves that it will play an active role in the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Based on the evaluation carried out recently by the EU/IAEA missions, the needs of the Republic of Macedonia regarding further improvement of physical protection of nuclear applications, boarder control management and the necessary legal and regulatory infrastructure have been identified.

As far as the national regulatory infrastructure is concerned, the independent Radiation Safety Directorate, assisted by the Agency has made significant progress in building capacities for effective radiation protection and nuclear safety in . In this regard, of particular importance are the efforts made by RSD for the established new central storage for low and intermediate radioactive waste. Further assistance will be required in order to be fully operational.

In this regard, I shall not avoid mentioning the significant assistance provided by the TC Department in the implementation of our national TC Programme. The TC Department should maintain its primary role to respond to the needs of the Member States expressed in their CPF's. The revision of our existing Country Programme Framework 2010-2015 is in its final stage.

The current national TC Programme is focused on human health, agriculture and food safety, nuclear knowledge management and strengthening the capabilities of the radiation safety services.

The application of nuclear technologies in the field of human health are still considered of utmost importance. In order to prove full commitment, our 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 is of crucial importance.

As a result from the successful cooperation with the Agency some of our project institutions were already promoted into centers of excellence and training centers used by the Agency. We shall be pleased to accept experts from the region at training programs in these institutions in future. In this way we reaffirm our commitment to the Agency's activities for strengthening of the regional co-operation. My country, also hosted many IAEA events under its regional technical cooperation programme. We appreciate to continue this activity in the future.

In spite of the severe economic conditions, my Government, has always fulfilled its obligations to the Agency's regular budget. Continuously we also provide significant extra-budgetary contributions to the Technical Co-operation Fund .

Madamme President, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me assure You, on behalf of my Delegation, of the Macedonian full support and continuing active partnership for the IAEA activities to fulfill its statutory obligations.

Thank You, Madamme President