

STATEMENT

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

delivered by Ms. Marzena Czarnecka

Minister of Industry

Mr. Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to underline that Poland remains fully committed to transform its energy sector. An important part of this task is to be played by nuclear energy. Polish government considers nuclear energy as a valuable dispatchable source of clean energy and as the main industrial technology that provides a significant contribution to the fight against climate change and – what became crucial due to the Russia's full-scale aggression on Ukraine – to ensuring energy security. It should also contribute to stabilisation of energy prices.

Polish Nuclear Power Programme envisage the construction of 6 units with 6-9 GWe total capacity by 2043. This strategic document is currently being updated, but Poland remains fully committed to the implementation of nuclear power.

In addition to the governmental programme there is an interest in Poland in the SMR technology, especially among energy-intensive industry. It can complement the Government's programme and contribute to faster decarbonization of the Polish energy grid, as well as areas such as district heating.

Moreover, the public support for the construction of nuclear power plants in Poland is currently at a remarkably high level of nearly 90% (89,9%*). It is particularly important that the vast majority of respondents (76.6%*) would accept siting a nuclear power plant in the immediate vicinity of their place of residence.

In April this year the Phase 2 Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review mission (INIR2) was carried out by the IAEA. The mission positively assessed Poland's readiness to continue the next phase of Polish Nuclear Power Programme, that is the start of construction of the first nuclear power plant.

Distinguished Delegates,

Poland recognizes the great value of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme. Participation in national and regional TC projects - in nuclear safety, radiation protection, nuclear power, medical and industrial applications, nuclear infrastructure development - significantly contributes to the sustainable development of Poland. We gladly continue to provide support to the TC Programme, including hosting events and fellowships in Poland as well as providing national experts for Agency activities.

International Atomic Energy Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme is considered by Polish side as the most important assistance program offered by the Agency and fundamental component of the international cooperation and primary mechanism for transferring nuclear knowledge, skills and technology by the Agency to the Member States.

Poland in this regard reaffirms its longstanding and strong support and we fully recognize importance of the Technical Cooperation Program for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Distinguished Delegates,

Poland considers nuclear power as a vital and necessary part of the future low-carbon global energy mix.

In this light we highly value the actions undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency as regards mainstreaming the issue of nuclear power's advantages in the worldwide discussions on commitments to curb the greenhouse gases emissions. This helps to recognize nuclear power but also nuclear science and technology solutions for climate change mitigation, adaptation and monitoring.

Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nuclear science and technology have long played a crucial role in advancing human knowledge and innovation. In recent years, they have also become key enablers in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

Nuclear science does not stop at energy. In healthcare, nuclear techniques are indispensable. Nuclear medicine — including imaging and radiation therapy — plays a vital role in diagnosing and treating cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and other health conditions. Nuclear technology is also used in agriculture to enhance food security. In addition, nuclear techniques are essential for environmental

monitoring and climate action. Nuclear isotopes help in tracking pollutants, managing water resources, and improving waste management practices.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Polish Government, I am pleased to express firm and continuous support of our country for the International Atomic Energy Agency activities. I have absolutely no doubt that nuclear power should be continuously included in the global climate and energy security debate and this event offers such an opportunity.

Thank you for your attention.