

**Address from Mr. Vukašin Grozdić, State Secretary Ministry of Science, Technological
development and Innovation Republic of Serbia**

2024 IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Application

Esteem hosts, Ladies and gentlemen,

The world is at a pivotal moment when the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) faces significant challenges. With just a few years left until the deadline, it has become clear that we must intensify our efforts and embrace innovative solutions to tackle the complexities of today's global issues. In this time and place, the international community—including Serbia—recognizes science as a cornerstone for addressing these challenges.

In this spirit, Serbia took a leading role by proposing the Decade of Science for Sustainable Development 2024–2033, which was adopted as a United Nations Resolution last year. This initiative reflects our belief that the SDGs cannot be achieved without integrating science, technology, and innovation into every aspect of sustainable development. Nuclear science, with its transformative applications in energy, health, agriculture, and environmental protection, stands as a vital component of this vision. By committing to this Decade of Science, we aim to foster global collaboration and harness the full potential of scientific advancements to build a future that is sustainable, equitable, and prosperous for all.

Today most people are aware of the important contribution nuclear science and energy makes in providing a significant proportion of the world's low-carbon electricity. The applications of nuclear technology outside electricity production are also acknowledged: radioisotopes, nuclear power process heat and non-stationary power reactors as essential uses across multiple sectors, including consumer products, food and agriculture, industry, medicine and scientific research, transport, and water resources and the environment.

An adequate national legal framework is an essential element for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation. In accordance with the decision made at the 45th General Conference (September 2001), the Republic of Serbia was admitted to the IAEA on October 31, 2001. Serbia cooperates with the IAEA by engaging in various activities, with a special emphasis on the Technical Assistance and Cooperation For the period 2012-2023 more than 110 projects were

completed or still active as well as current cooperation program in 2024 with the start of 4 new national projects. The main form of technical cooperation between Serbia and IAEA is still receiving assistance, but also a stable trend is observed in the increasing number of domestic experts who go on missions to other countries, or domestic institutions that, due to the expertise they have, become hosts of foreign study and expert visits.

Challenges in modern agricultural production as a result of the use of intensive agricultural techniques and climate change are part of the research of Serbian Institute for Nuclear Energy Applications. Particular emphasis is placed on new technologies for monitoring and protecting the environment from harmful chemical substances and radiation exposure. Institute in cooperation with the IAEA is striving to translate research results into a concrete product or service.

We are also very grateful that through Technical Cooperation (TC) project INT0102 and Interregional training course “Establishing and Enhancing National Nuclear Legal Frameworks in Member States”, organized in Belgrade, few months ago, legislative assistance is provided to Member States. The training covered relevant legal instruments governing nuclear safety, security, safeguards and civil liability for nuclear damage, as well as the elements of a comprehensive national legal framework.

The use of nuclear energy as a method for reducing greenhouse gases, and thus the impact on climate change is being crucial. Clean air, stable climate, adequate water, sanitation and hygiene, safe use of chemicals, protection from radiation, healthy and safe workplaces, sound agricultural practices, health-supportive cities, and a preserved nature are all prerequisites for achieving better living conditions for all of us, with constructive cooperation and understanding.

The Republic of Serbia will continue to support and strengthen its own expertise in the peaceful application of nuclear technologies, but also actively participate in international cooperation and explore innovations in nuclear advancements, whilst highlighting the role of nuclear technology in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thank you.