

STATEMENT OF SLOVAKIA

Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme

Delivered by Ms. Marta ŽIAKOVÁ

Chairperson

Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic

Vienna, 26 November 2024

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Director General, Excellencies, delegates,

Allow me to start by expressing my gratitude to the Director General and the Secretariat for organizing this conference. We commend the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and the Co-Chairs for their tireless efforts in leading the preparatory process, thanks to which I trust this conference will be a success.

Slovakia aligns itself with the EU statement, and I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Slovakia is strongly committed to the NPT as the foundation for fostering collaboration and advancing the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We consider the role of the IAEA and its Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme in promoting the peaceful uses of the atom and its widespread benefits for the international community to be indispensable.

Nuclear science and technology offer tangible advantages in finding solutions for addressing global challenges in multiple areas, including contributing to reaching net zero, ensuring food security, mitigating implications of climate change, or fighting cancer. We commend the remarkable impact of the TC Programme and its substantial contribution in assisting Member States in the attainment of the SDGs and supporting their efforts under the 2030 Agenda.

Nuclear energy and its peaceful uses remain a key priority for Slovakia, with safety and security being of paramount importance. As a staunch supporter of the TC Programme, Slovakia attaches great relevance to this mechanism. We have benefited from this assistance through our national, regional, and interregional TC projects, primarily in the field of capacity-building and knowledge transfer in our priority areas: enhancing nuclear and radiation safety, strengthening capacities in radiotherapy, radiology, and nuclear medicine, and decommissioning of A1 and V1 NPPs. These priorities closely align with thematic areas of collaboration at the

regional level. In the context of enhancing the safety of the existing fleet, ongoing expansion of our nuclear power program, and utilization of non-power applications in fields of human health, the environment, industrial applications, and nuclear knowledge management, the open access to opportunities and exchange of know-how in this highly technical agenda is our long-term priority and an essential component of our cooperation with the Agency. We therefore echo our support for a demand-driven, efficient, need-based, and non-discriminatory access to the programme.

Besides being a recipient of the TC Programme, we remain committed to consistently providing our contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) in full and on time. We also regularly support advancing nuclear science and technology by sharing our expertise through providing experts, accepting scientific visits and fellowships, and hosting other technical events in Slovakia. We underscore the important work of the Agency's laboratories, and are pleased to have provided an extrabudgetary contribution to the ReNuAl2 initiative aimed at refurbishment of the IAEA Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf.

Member States and their institutions also play a significant role in promoting practical use of nuclear techniques and sharing best practices in research and development, in particular through established Collaborating Centres. We are proud that since 2021, the Slovak Nuclear and Decommissioning Company (JAVYS) has supported the Agency's activities in nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management as a designated IAEA Collaborating Centre.

We welcome the joint efforts in increasing representation of women in nuclear science, technology, and applications and continue to advocate for gender mainstreaming across the TC activities.

In conclusion, Slovakia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to harnessing the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy through international cooperation. We stand ready to work together to ensure its responsible, safe and secure application to the advantage of all.

Thank you.