

**STATEMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

TO THE 57th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

by H.E. VUK ŽUGIĆ

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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

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Madame Vice President, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election to this high office, and wish you and the other members of the Bureau every success in this task. I also want to assure you of the full support and co-operation of the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia.

It is my honor and pleasure to congratulate the Director General, Mr. Amano, and his associates, for the extraordinary work done in the previous period, and to express my appreciation for the opportunity to continue our successful cooperation in the upcoming period of his new term of office. The significant role of the Agency lies in verifying the compliance of the activities of the Member States with their obligations under the NPT in assuring that the nuclear energy is used only for the peaceful purposes, as well as in contributing to the development of the civil society through use and application of nuclear energy. My firm conviction is that it will continue to face all the challenges in the future and give contribution to the global welfare and prosperity.

At the outset I would like to congratulate and warmly welcome Brunei Darussalam as a new Member of the IAEA family which permanently extends its membership, growing in its significance as a global intergovernmental organization.

Madame President,

Serbia continues to support the Agency's mandate aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness in a successful implementation of the verification measures for development of the integrated safeguards and, further concluding of the Safeguards Agreements in connection with the NPT and relevant Protocols. Reiterating its strong commitment to the universal nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Republic of Serbia signed the Additional Protocol in 2009 and technical and administrative preparations for completion of the complex and comprehensive process for its ratification and implementation are under way. The importance that we attach to strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and confronting the threats of nuclear terrorism is represented in a number of preparatory actions preceding the Additional Protocol ratification as well as activities on raising nuclear security awareness.

In April this year, the Republic of Serbia became a Participating Government of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a prestigious group of countries which contributes to strengthening of the international practice in the field of non-proliferation.

Madame President,

Possible terrorist attacks inevitably bring the issue of security into focus. It includes the nuclear security and relevant measures for protection. The new Nuclear Security Plan for the period 2014 – 2017, which we have on the Agenda of this Conference, as well as other IAEA continuous efforts for

coordination and application of security activities and measures, gives a significant contribution in combating nuclear terrorism. I want to take this opportunity to express our full support to the Agency programs and funds established for this and similar purposes.

By taking an active role, the Republic of Serbia will continue to support the global efforts of the international community in strengthening efficient mechanisms in combating illicit trafficking, improving the physical protection regime and gaining the control over the orphan sources.

Madame President,

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, held in Vienna this July reflects the importance of nuclear security worldwide and recognition of the fact that, although the responsibility for nuclear security rests with the individual States, there are, as concluded, *“regional and global interests in this matter which could be greatly enhanced through collective actions and international cooperation”*.

Prevention of terrorists and other non-state actors from acquiring sensitive nuclear material and technologies has its grounds in international instruments, such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Recognizing a need that the CPPNM is amended, the Republic of Serbia signed its Amendments, which give a wider basis for strengthening the physical protection measures and their extension to the nuclear facilities, domestic storage, use and transport, smuggling and relevant sanctioning. Our intention is to initiate joint interagency preparations for its ratification and implementation in the upcoming period. I would like to thank

the Agency for its readiness to provide the Republic of Serbia with the assistance that is essential in facilitating this process.

Madame President,

Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency was founded three years ago as a regulatory body, in order to provide a comprehensive and stronger sustainable nuclear and radiation safety framework and protect people, society and environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. It keeps on developing its regulatory capacities, capabilities and functions through enacting the new regulations and programs, and through preparations for further accession to the international legal instruments. Serbia keeps on transposing the requirements of the international conventions, guidelines and other documents into domestic laws and regulations integrating them continuously into the national legal system and thus, providing a better framework for strengthening nuclear safety regime.

While the Convention on Nuclear Safety is already in the internal ratification procedure, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management is, according to our plan, the next to follow. By widening its participation in the multilateral legal instruments and arrangements, as well as in the bilateral agreements which are being negotiated mostly with the neighboring countries, Serbia is improving its legal basis for enhancing the international cooperation for implementation of nuclear safety measures.

Madame President, Distinguished Delegates,

I would also like to stress the importance of the assistance that has been provided through technical and other Agency's funds. This assistance is essential in reaching a higher level of nuclear safety and security, in meeting the Agency requirements and standards for better control and use of nuclear energy and techniques for the sustainable development of civil society. I would therefore like to emphasize the significance of the continuous support to my country for the activities in various fields, and, in particular, in the area of improving the functions of the regulatory body, further activities on nuclear decommissioning and related activities at the Vinca site, as well as to the issues in the area of human health.

In the Republic of Serbia, activities in several national and many regional projects are currently underway. We have also submitted national project proposals for the forthcoming cycle and expressed interest to take part in a number of regional projects which reflect the most important needs of my country.

In conclusion, Madame President, I want to strongly support the Annual Report for 2012, which represents a clear evidence of a significant joint effort and the outstanding importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency in its efforts to maintain peace and sustainable global development. Let me take this opportunity to assure you once again, Madame President, that the Republic of Serbia stands firmly in its orientation towards the peaceful use of nuclear energy and remains committed to all fundamental principles and main goals of the Agency towards a safe and secure application of nuclear energy for the benefit of the human kind and the development of the world community.

Thank you, Madame President.