

STATEMENT

OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Delivered by Mr. Emir Dizdarevic

Director of the State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety

Vienna, 28 September 2016

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Please allow me, Mr. President, to extend my warm congratulations on your elections as the President of this conference. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in making this Conference a success. At the same time I would like to join others in welcoming Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Islamic Republic of Gambia as new Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully associates itself with the Statement of the European Union, delivered on the first day of the Conference. In my national capacity, I wish to address some issues of particular importance to my country relevant to the Agenda of the Conference.

Mr President,
Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted the most important international treaties, conventions and agreements related to the IAEA's work. As a member of the IAEA since 1995 we continue to support the Agency's mandate in promoting nuclear safeguards and verification, safety and security and cooperation in field of science and technologies. We are committed to achieving universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) and we recognise that the IAEA safeguard system is the only mechanism to verify non-diversion of nuclear activities to military purposes and that assures compliance with non-proliferation obligations undertaken by States Parties to the NPT.

Bosnia and Herzegovina warmly welcomes the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear

Material as a new legally binding instrument which represents common achievement of international community in the area of physical protection of nuclear material. It proves the strong international determination to strengthen nuclear security globally and reduce the risk such as the smuggling of nuclear material and the threatened sabotage of nuclear facilities.

Technical cooperation with the Agency, as a primarily mechanism to support Member states in their development, which represents a unique platform for exchange of information, experience and good practices, has been highly valued by Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the assistance of the IAEA, Bosnia and Herzegovina has upgraded its capabilities in field of radiation protection and nuclear safety. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina has harmonized a number of regulations with IAEA standards and EURATOM directives.

Mr President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a state party of the Joint Convention of the safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive waste Management, expresses its concern over activities conducted by the Republic of Croatia, regarding the construction of storage and disposal for radioactive waste low and intermediate activity, near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Regulatory Authority for Radiation and Nuclear Safety of the Republic of Croatia announced in February 2016 public consultations on "Strategic Environmental Impact Study on" and "Draft proposal on national implementation program on "Radioactive Waste, Disused Sources and Spent Nuclear Fuel Disposal Strategy". The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina have participated in three public consultations held in Croatia, where they have voiced our concerns over the environmental impact on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The BiH Parliament Assembly and the entity parliaments adopted a resolution in which they strongly oppose to the construction of storage and disposal for

radioactive waste in Trgovska Gora. The population living in municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina close to the border with Croatia, and near the river Una also expressed its discontent with planned constructions of the storage and disposal for radioactive waste in its surrounding area.

In April 2016, during a public consultation, the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a set of questions regarding the "Strategic Environmental Impact Study" and "Draft proposal on national implementation program on 'Radioactive Waste, Disused Sources and Spent Nuclear Fuel Disposal Strategy'" to Croatia. We are still waiting for a response and clarifications from relevant Croatian institutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to recall the Article 27 of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, according to which it is clearly defined that transboundary transport can be approved only in the case where the destination country has all administrative and technical capacities, as well as well-developed regulatory structure necessary for the management and storage of spent fuel or radioactive waste concerning this Convention. We expect, also, that Republic of Slovenia, as a state of origin from which a transboundary movement of the radioactive waste from NPP Krško is planned, continue to fully and rigorously implement measures and obligations contained in the Joint convention.

Mr. President

In conclusion, I would like to thank Director General Amano and Agency staff for their diligent work and professionalism over the past year.

I wish you, Mr President, and all of us successful General Conference.

Thank you!