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Statement by

Alternate Head of Delegation of the Republic of Croatia

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Mister President,

At the outset, on behalf of Croatian delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of this jubilar 60th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are convinced that under your guidance this Conference will accomplish its work successfully and I can assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Croatian delegation.

Furthermore, allow me to extend our appreciation to the IAEA Director General, Mr. Amano and the Secretariat for their dedicated and professional work that has

been accomplished since the last General Conference and congratulate them on this very important anniversary.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the applications for membership of the Agency by Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Islamic Republic of Gambia, which once again testifies of the significance of the Agency.

Mister President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Croatia fully aligned itself with the EU statement. However, I would like to use this opportunity to say a few words in my national capacity.

The IAEAs **safeguards** are the key element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Croatia implements the system of integrated safeguards and all nuclear material is used exclusively for peaceful activities. This year Croatian Parliament ratified the Agreement between the non-nuclear-weapon States of the European Atomic Energy Community, the European Atomic Energy Community and the IAEA in Implementation of Article III (1) and (4) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Protocol Additional thereto.

As a Party to all the major **international treaties and conventions** relating to nuclear safety and security, Croatia is fully committed to their implementation. In

that context, Croatia welcomes the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in May this year.

With regard to the nuclear safety, Croatia has already prepared the country review report for the 7th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which will be held in 2017.

Nuclear energy plays a major role in stable and carbon free supply of electrical energy to Croatian citizens and industry for more than 30 years. Joint venture of Slovenia and Croatia in developing and safe operation of Krško NPP is continuous example of successful cooperation between two states in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, with number of positive economic and ecological effects for both partners. Furthermore, Croatia is committed to support safe and secure operation of Krško NPP in accordance with bilateral agreement, fully taking into account all obligations including those with respect to the safe management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.

Under the coordination by the State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety, Croatian designated bodies concluded the process of preparation of the proposal of the **National programme for the implementation of the Strategy** for the Management of Radioactive Waste, Disused Sources and Spent Nuclear Fuel, which was adopted by the Croatian Parliament in 2014. Both documents are in line with requirements set out in the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management as well as in the Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom establishing a Community framework for

the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Whereas the Draft proposal of the National programme for the implementation of the Strategy indicates possible location for radioactive waste storage, which will be the subject of further verifications in the forthcoming Governmental procedure for its adoption, let me highlight that Strategic Environmental Assessment was made taking into account the highest safety standards for protection of human health and the environment. Consequently all international obligations (including Espoo and Aarhus conventions) were fulfilled. This includes informing the public and neighboring countries and organizing the public hearings and discussions both at the national and international level.

Furthermore, Croatia attaches great importance to **bilateral cooperation** in the field of nuclear safety and security. In this respect we continued our cooperation with Slovenia and Hungary in the framework of the Agreement for the Early Exchange of Information in the Event of a Radiological Emergency. The bilateral agreement on cooperation between regulatory bodies of Croatia and Serbia is still in the process of signing.

Mister President,

Croatia highly values the Agency's work on the Peaceful Application of Nuclear Technology in participating member states.

In 2016, the State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety, as the regulatory body for radiological and nuclear safety and security, started the process of revision of law and regulations according to the recommendations and suggestions of the **Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission** from 2015.

The most important aspect of successful cooperation between Croatia and the Agency is within the framework of the Agency's **Technical Cooperation Programme**, at the national and regional level.

For current biennial project cycle 2016/2017, four national technical cooperation projects have been implemented, covering introduction and utilization of different techniques in medicine, upgrading of dose management in medicine and isotope investigation of ground and surface water. For the next biennial project cycle 2018/2019, six national and one regional project have been proposed by Croatia in line with the priorities of the technical cooperation with the Agency set in the Country Programme Framework from 2014.

In conclusion Mister President, let me stress once more that Croatia fully supports the work of the Agency and calls on all Member States to approve the proposed budget for 2017 to allow the Agency's unhindered functioning.

Thank you.