



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the 60th General Conference of the
IAEA**

Vienna, 26 September 2016

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino.
2. First of all, let me congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of this 60th General Conference. The EU would also like to congratulate the Agency on its 60th anniversary, to thank the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial work, and to assure them of the EU's unfailing support. The EU furthermore welcomes the applications for membership by Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Islamic Republic of Gambia.
3. The EU attaches great importance to the IAEA's core responsibilities in the field of non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and technical cooperation. We look forward to the General Conference having a focussed discussion on these areas of IAEA expertise.
4. Similarly, the EU attaches importance in the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. Striving for gender equality within the IAEA, for instance by increasing the representation of women in the professional categories and management positions, is of benefit to the IAEA.

Mr President,

5. The EU is fully committed to promoting universal adherence to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agreements. The EU reiterates its firm support for the full, complete, and effective implementation of the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT,

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

* Iceland is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

and vital for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. We call upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states.

Mr. President,

6. The IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. We underline the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance. The EU further recognises the serious proliferation challenges which continue to be a threat to international security, and the need to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions to them.

Mr. President,

7. More than one year after the conclusion of the historic agreement between the E3/EU+3 and Iran on Iran's nuclear programme, the EU welcomes the ongoing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This agreement highlights the importance of effective multilateralism and international cooperation, conducted within the framework of relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, IAEA Board Resolutions and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The EU reiterates the need for Iran to strictly adhere to all its commitments under the JCPOA and to cooperate fully and in timely manner with the IAEA. The early ratification by Iran of the Additional Protocol, which would also demonstrate Iran's commitment to the JCPOA, is essential. The EU fully supports the IAEA's long-term mission of verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear related commitments and recalls the importance of ensuring the necessary means for the Agency to carry out its role.
8. The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the fifth nuclear test carried out by the DPRK on 9 September. The proliferation of nuclear weapons, as exemplified by DPRK's nuclear and ballistic programmes, remains a grave concern for the EU. The DPRK is the only State to have conducted nuclear explosive tests in the 21st century. Nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions represent a threat to

international peace and security and undermine the non-proliferation regime. The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms DPRK's ongoing nuclear and missile-related programmes which are in clear violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, as recalled in the latest UNSC resolution 2270. We would also like to refer to UNSC Resolution 1887 which inter alia calls upon all States to refrain from conducting nuclear test explosions. We look forward to the UNSC addressing the matter and take a firm and effective stand and we will closely coordinate our action with its decisions. We urge DPRK to reverse course and to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles programme and to return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards at an early date. The EU continues to attach the highest importance to maintaining an essential role for the IAEA in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme.

9. Recalling the resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 June 2011, which concluded that Syria is in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement, the EU urges Syria to cooperate promptly and transparently with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues including through concluding and implementing an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

10. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current verification standard and the EU continues to call for their universalisation without delay. Liechtenstein and Cote d'Ivoire brought into force an Additional Protocol. In this respect, the EU welcomes the fact that 128 Additional Protocols are in force and also notes that another 19 States have signed an Additional Protocol but have yet to bring it into force. The EU furthermore urges the remaining 46 states which have not yet amended the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP), to accelerate their efforts. The EU supports the continued efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of Agency safeguards through the further development and application of the State-level concept (SLC), enhanced capabilities of analytical services information analysis and technologies. In particular, the EU is convinced that consistent and universal application of the SLC further strengthens the efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA Safeguards System and thus contributes to global non-proliferation efforts.

11. For the EU, the close cooperation between EURATOM and the IAEA allows effective and efficient safeguards. The EU is actively supporting the Agency's safeguards system through the EC Safeguards Support Programme and through the Support Programmes of some of its Member States.

12. The EU reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East. We maintain the view that, dialogue and building confidence among all stakeholders is the only sustainable way to agree arrangements for a meaningful conference on the establishment of such a zone, to be attended by all States of the region.

Mr. President,

13. The EU has allocated € 225 million over the period 2014 – 2020 in support of third countries promoting of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards, as further support to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

14. The EU and its Member States attach utmost importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of nuclear safety. The EURATOM Directive on Nuclear Safety sets the objective of preventing accidents and, should they occur, mitigating the consequences and avoiding early and large radioactive releases. This objective, which is also included in the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety adopted last year by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), will be in the focus of EU Member States at forthcoming meetings of the CNS. The EU and its Member States emphasize the importance of the implementation of Building on the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety report. A clear sense of nuclear safety priorities will help the Agency ensure that its work adds value where it is most needed, does not duplicate activities undertaken elsewhere and makes the best use of its resources.

Mr President,

15. In the framework of its strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the EU is actively supporting UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR

1887 as well as other international initiatives, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction which contribute to strengthening nuclear security. Out of €260 million from EU Funds dedicated to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation worldwide, more than €100 million for the period 2014 - 2020 has been allocated to the EU's regional CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative.

16. The EU strongly supports the central role of the IAEA in the global nuclear security framework as widely recognized by international initiatives which have contributed to strengthening nuclear security, including the nuclear security summits. Together with its Member States, among the main contributors to the Nuclear Security Fund. €40 million from EU funds and another 45 million from EU Member States were contributed to the Nuclear Security Fund to date, to the benefit of around 100 countries. We intend to continue to support the IAEA's work. The EU looks forward to the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security in December and encourages all IAEA Member States to participate at Ministerial level.
17. The EU welcomes the entry into force in May of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) which is an important milestone towards the collective aim of strengthening nuclear security globally. The EU will continue to help States in their efforts to fully implement the provisions of the Amended CPPNM and encourages the Agency to promote universal adherence to it.
18. The EU remains firmly committed to the benefits of multilateral approaches and welcomes the signing and its approval by the Board of the Host State Agreement between Kazakhstan and the IAEA last year and welcomes that the Agency is now at the stage of preparing the acquisition of the LEU required for the establishment of the IAEA LEU bank. Furthermore, we welcome the signature of the transit agreement with the Russian Federation and look forward to the signature of the Transit Agreement between the IAEA and China. The EU supports this project with up to €25 million, of

which we have already contributed €20 million for the purpose of acquiring the LEU.

19. The EU notes that projections for global installed nuclear power capacity indicate an increase by 2030, with different regional developments. Although these projections have been lowered since 2010, we note that nuclear power remains an important option for several member countries of the IAEA. Modernisation of existing nuclear power plants and construction of new ones continue in several regions of the world.
20. Nuclear facilities should only be planned and constructed with strict adherence to relevant international conventions and nuclear safety standards, as well as national safety regulations, ensuring open dialogue with neighbouring countries and transparent public communication.

Mr. President,

21. The EU and its Member States continue to be strong supporters of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, including through the TC Fund and the Peaceful Uses Initiative, and are the second largest contributor to the TC Programme. We fully appreciate the Agency's role in promoting a responsible development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of, inter alia, human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, preservation of cultural heritage, nuclear and radiation safety, and nuclear energy. We welcome the Secretariat's present and future efforts to promote gender equality throughout the TC Programme. We would also like to reiterate our appreciation to the TC Department for its activities with regard to outbreak of the Zika virus disease in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for PACT to achieve sustainable cancer control capacity, in particular in low and middle income countries. The IAEA's Nuclear Sciences and Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf (NA Laboratories) contribute essential work in this respect and we welcome the progress made by the Director General's initiative regarding the modernization of the NA Laboratories ("ReNuAL"). The European Union supports both the IAEA, and IAEA Member States, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, also through technical expertise and with a total amount of some € 150 million per year.

22. The EU welcomes the decision of the Director General to devote this year's Scientific Forum to "Nuclear Technology for the Sustainable Development Goals."

Finally Mr. President,

The EU would like to assure you of its continuing strong support for the activities of the Agency.

I thank you.