



*Permanent Mission of Italy
to the International Organizations
Vienna*

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Filippo FORMICA
Temporary President of the 60th General Conference
(Vienna, 26 September 2016)**

Your Excellencies,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

We gather at a special point in the history of the Agency as this General Conference marks the Agency's 60th anniversary. I warmly welcome you all. The participation of so many Ministers and senior officials from Member States enhances the standing of the IAEA as the foremost forum for international cooperation in the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy. The Agency has come a long way in these 60 years, showing a great capacity to adapt to a changing world while remaining true to its mission: to ensure that nuclear energy is used for the good of mankind.

For its 60th anniversary the Agency sports a new logo, which says "60 Years of IAEA- Atoms for Peace and Development". The Director General has recently indicated that "we will use the anniversary to highlight the Agency's significant contribution to global peace, security and development". We can say with confidence that without the Agency the world would be less peaceful, less secure and less developed.

The past year was a very intensive one for the IAEA. After the conclusion of the landmark deal on Iran's nuclear program here in Vienna, the Agency has been carrying on the key role of verification and monitoring of the nuclear related

commitments so contributing to the effective implementation of the JCPoA. This is a clear demonstration of its professionalism and impartiality.

The verification activities conducted by the IAEA deserve our full support, as its safeguards are a cornerstone of peace and security in the world.

In this regard, we appreciate the IAEA's readiness, reiterated by the Director General, to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue, by resuming verification activities in the country once an agreement is reached among countries concerned.

We also approve and commend the Agency's tireless efforts in ensuring the highest nuclear safety and security standards.

One needs only to think of the IAEA Safety Standards that have contributed to establishing a stronger nuclear safety global framework. [But] the IAEA has also the leading role in developing international nuclear security guidance and in strengthening the international nuclear security framework.

Against this backdrop, the recent entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM (Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material) marks another milestone. Our endeavor must now turn to the universalization of the amended Convention and its implementation.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Almost exactly one year ago to this day, the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda with its Sustainable Development Goals, setting the course for development efforts over the next decades. All the International Organizations, as well as their Member States, are called on to give their contribution. It is now time to take action.

[And] There is much that the Agency can contribute to achieving the SDGs, in particular through its Technical Cooperation.

We need to strengthen our cooperation and forge new partnerships: PACT is a good example. The work has just started. [But] in order to do so, the support of its membership, *our* support, is essential. We are the stakeholders of the Agency and we must guarantee that the IAEA will have the technology, expertise, authority and resources needed to meet such high expectations.

Dear colleagues, distinguished delegates,

It seems to me that the Agency has done well in its first 60 years. It can continue to do well in its next 60 years provided that we live up to the commitment we undertook when joining the Agency: that atomic energy contributes “to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world” and that it will not be used “in such a way as to further any military purpose”.

Finally, this being my last General Conference, I would like to commend the Director General and the Secretariat for their remarkable achievements and dedication in upholding the ideals of the Agency.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you success in your endeavors in the coming days.