



G R E E C E

**Statement by Ambassador Chryssoula Aliferi
Resident Representative of Greece to the IAEA
60th General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna, September 26-30th, 2016**

Mr. President,

On behalf of Greece I would like to convey to you our sincere congratulations on your election as **President** of the 60th General Conference of the IAEA.

Allow me also to reiterate our congratulations and support to the **Director General** Mr. Amano and the **Secretariat** for their competent and objective work.

We assure you all of our full support.

A warm welcome from Greece, as well, to the **new members** of the Agency: Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Islamic Republic of Gambia.

As a member of the **European Union**, we fully associate ourselves with the Statement delivered on Monday by the distinguished Delegate of Slovakia, current Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In this statement I will highlight some issues of particular importance to us.

Mr. President,

A corner stone of Greece's policy has always been respect for **International Law** and the **United Nations system** as a whole.

Thus, Greece extends its warmest congratulations on the **60th anniversary of the IAEA**, the very first International Organisation resident in the city of Vienna, and reiterates its highest appreciation and support for the Agency's mission.

Six decades of dedicated work, in order to promote **peaceful and responsible uses** of nuclear technology, with many positive results in areas such as human health, water resources, food, agriculture, environment, preservation of cultural heritage etc.

I was privileged to participate in one of the Agency's organized visits to the Nuclear Sciences and Applications Laboratories at **Seibersdorf**. One gets there a more concrete idea of how *nuclear technology* strives to face old and new challenges, in everyday peaceful life, for the benefit of humanity.

Nuclear *power* option is not part of our national energy mix. However, we acknowledge all States' legitimate right to peaceful and cautious use of nuclear energy, provided they fully adhere to and respect the international **Non-Proliferation** regime, **Safeguards** Agreements and IAEA **Safety** and **Security** Standards.

Mr. President,

ATOMS for peace, is the moto of the Agency. **Atom**, "**atomo**" in ancient *and* modern Greek however, also means the **individual**.

I cannot avoid the link that the **responsibility**, when using the "atoma" / *nuclei* (*lat.*), lies with the "atoma" / *individuals*, persons as well as states.

So:

-Once again, this year, we need to urge all States that have not yet done so to join the Non Proliferation Treaty (**NPT**) as non-nuclear weapon states.

-Once again, particularly on its 20th anniversary, we call for the entering into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (**CTBT**); “Let’s finish what we have started”, indeed.

-Once again, we regret that no progress has been made towards a Conference on a **Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons**.

-Once again, Athens joined recently its voice with the international community and condemned the proliferation activities of the **Democratic People’s Republic of Korea** and the defiance it continues to demonstrate towards its international obligations.

On the **positive balance of this year**:

-We welcome the ongoing implementation of the historic Agreement reached in Vienna last year between the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and the **EU3+3** and commend the **IAEA** for successfully fulfilling its role concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (**JCPOA**).

-We also welcome the recent entering into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (**CPPNM**).

Mr. President,

For its part, **Greece** adheres to all relevant IAEA Agreements, duly transposed, where necessary, into its national legislation. We attach particular importance to Nuclear **Safety and Security** worldwide.

-Environmental **Safety** should always be taken into account, especially in regions with dynamic seismic and earthquake activity. This is the most valuable lesson learned in the light of the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

-Both globally and regionally, particularly in our wider area, implementing the IAEA’s Nuclear **Security** guidelines, measures and procedures is of paramount importance.

-The application of comprehensive **IAEA Safeguards** to all nuclear material and activities in the Middle East, and other regions, will create confidence among all states, promoting peace, security and prosperity for all.

Regarding our **national activities** in the scope of the IAEA, particularly through the **Greek Atomic Energy Commission**, allow me to highlight the following:

-The Greek Atomic Energy Commission hosted a follow up Education and Training Appraisal Mission (**EduTA**) mission in Athens, last October, in order to promote educational and training activities in Radiation **Safety**.

-An International Meeting on Nuclear **Security** Information Exchange and Coordination was held in Athens last June, with 21 participants from 12 countries. Its purpose was to strengthen national, regional, and international capacity to prevent and combat illicit trafficking, through enhanced information exchange and cooperation.

-Greece, a maritime nation, currently chairs, through its regulatory authority, the Mediterranean Network for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials (**MedNet**), a successful and active regional network, with research and publishing work.

-We also requested an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (**IRRS**) follow-up Mission, which is scheduled to take place during the last quarter of 2017.

-We will participate in the 7th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to be held here in 2017 and have already submitted the national report.

-And, of course, we will participate at this December's Conference on Security.

At the same time, we highly appreciate the efforts of the Agency to increase Member States' capabilities in the development and application of **Nuclear Sciences and Technology** as well as the role of the **Technical Cooperation** as a primary mechanism to support Member States particularly in strengthening Safety and Security in all aspects of the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

In this respect Greece continues to provide the IAEA with scientists, who share and gain experience by participating in regional projects, international missions, technical meetings etc. Ten international fellows were hosted in our national laboratories for on-the-job-training or scientific visits in the fields of Radiation Safety and Security.

Concluding, Mr. President,

The Greek Government would like to reiterate its strong support to the important mission and relevant projects of the IAEA and to express Greece's commitment to continue its active cooperation with the Agency.

Happy and further successful 60th anniversary!

Thank You