



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

STATEMENT

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PLENIPOTENTIARY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE, UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

TO THE 60 SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

Vienna, 26 - 30 September, 2016

Mr. President, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates

I have the honor, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, to address the 60th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I want to assure you of our full support and wish you every success in carrying out this task.

I also want to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Director General and the staff of the Secretariat of the Agency for their outstanding efforts and excellent work done in achieving the goals set during the 59th session of the General Conference and to compliment on professional preparations and managing this important event.

It is a pleasure to warmly welcomes the applications for membership by Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Islamic Republic of Gambia as a new member state of the Agency.

The Republic of Macedonia fully associates itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Let me however point out some issues of particular interest for my country

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia fully subscribes to the need for a strong system of international safeguards to promote collective security. Facing the growing terrorism all over the world, this role of the Agency is becoming even more important. Therefore, the co-operation among all member states and the Agency, regarding the application of the Safety Standards and measures in accordance with the Nuclear Security Plan, should be permanently maintained and strengthened.

My country has joined the crucial instruments marking the milestones in the international efforts to strengthen non-proliferation, nuclear verification and export control and based on its obligations regularly submits the reports. We welcome any further steps undertaken by those member States which have not ratified yet these

documents to do so in near future. What is more important, efforts to secure negotiated peaceful solution to the urgent problems need to be pursued consistently.

During the last decade, strongly oriented towards carrying out the process of integration into the European Union, the Republic of Macedonia has developed and implemented a wide range of measures to strengthen the nuclear regulatory framework and infrastructure. To prevent the misuse of nuclear and other radioactive material and related knowledge and technologies, my country constantly improves its capabilities for combating illicit trafficking, and measures for physical protection of nuclear and radioactive materials.

As far as the national regulatory infrastructure is concerned, the independent Radiation Safety Directorate, assisted by the Agency has made further progress in building the national capacities for effective radiation protection and nuclear safety. Under these activities a significant number of young experts have been trained. During the previous years, the Radiation Safety Directorate, adopted several rulebooks harmonized with the EU legislation, achieving further harmonization of the national legislation in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

The revision on the **Strategic Plan of the Radiation Safety Directorate for the period 2017-2019** is adopted. The adoption of this strategic plan represents eight cycle of strategic planning by the Directorate, in which are presented its directions and objectives that are based on the strategic priorities of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union and NATO. At the same time, the Strategic plan represents a realistic guide for fulfilling the tasks and priorities of the Radiation Safety Directorate in mid-term period. The implementation of the plan will strengthen the operability, efficiency and transparency in performance of the responsibilities of the Directorate in accordance with the international standards..

The employees of the Radiation Safety Directorate continuously participated in trainings organized by the International atomic energy agency IAEA during 2016. The participation on the trainings strengthens the administrative capacities and the human resources of the Directorate by gaining knowledge in the relevant field

Mr. President,

Macedonia strongly supports strengthening of the IAEA technical assistance which is indispensable, primarily for developing countries. The IAEA expertise, training, education, and providing the necessary equipment are crucial in accomplishing the goals set in nuclear safeguards, safety and security, regulatory infrastructure, radiation medicine and diagnostics, cultural heritage, agriculture and many other fields. I avail myself of the opportunity to express appreciation for the Agency's assistance in the implementation of our National Technical Co-operation Program.

The priority sectors for nuclear development in the State had been tailored to highlight sectors where the IAEA's TC activities in the country can contribute within development priorities. The national development priorities and activities relevant to the Agency's TC Programme have been revised accordingly, taking into account the increased efforts by the country to achieve compliance with relevant requirements for EU membership and relevant international development assistance, including the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Government has already stated in its Report on the MDGs that “the integration in the European Union is the basic driving force behind the reforms in the state institutions and the promotion of a modern, democratic and market-oriented society in which the principles for basic human freedoms and ethnic diversity are respected”

The ongoing projects in the project cycle 2016-2017 are in full compliance with our Country Programme Framework for the period 2013-2017. I avail myself of the opportunity to express our appreciation for the overall assistance provided by the TC Department in the implementation of our Programme. Republic of Macedonia has also been and still is participating extensively in regional and interregional TC projects in order to complement national activities dealing in particular with nuclear institution and human resource development, human health, radiation protection, and nuclear applications. In addition, the country has actively contributed to the TC programme by hosting workshops, scientific visits, fellowships, and by offering its expertise to other Member States such as in the areas of nuclear security, human health, food safety, and veterinary medicine.

Macedonia has started a programme of systematic and comprehensive collection of information required to make a decision on entering into a new nuclear power programme. Country has prepared a National Energy Strategy, in which one of the options for meeting electrical energy demand in 2030 and beyond is to use nuclear power in addition to other energy sources. In this line the financial assistance and technical help by the Agency are required to properly implement all of the steps of this work, to perform assessment of the work plan and results, and to ensure that the programme is in compliance with international and IAEA guidelines and requirements in all necessary areas.

In this regard within the previous Technical Cooperation Project Cycle 2014-2015, National project on Preparation Activities for Making a Decision on entering into New Nuclear Energy Programme in Macedonia, Phase I, Part I has been successfully implemented, and the second part of the same project is currently ongoing under the Technical Cooperation Project Cycle 2016-2017.

Besides the work on this IAEA project, Republic of Macedonia continues to invest national funds for performing important pre-feasibility nuclear power related studies in several areas, such as seismic assessments, hydrological assessments, human resource assessments, and in particular energy planning work using the IAEA methodologies.

Republic of Macedonia appreciates the assistance received from the IAEA in the past few years, and expects this assistance to continue in the next few years. This is essential for the national nuclear infrastructure assessment and regional cooperation in the preparation for making a decision on the implementation of nuclear power nationally or regionally.

The other National ongoing project within the Project Cycle 2016-2017 is the “Introduction of a SPECT/CT hybrid imaging at the Institute of Pathophysiology and Nuclear Medicine in Skopje”, as a very good opportunity to develop further nuclear medicine in university clinic settings, to make it sustainable and to improve diagnostic imaging in public healthcare system.

The third National project within the current Project Cycle is also in the field of human health titled: "Strengthening Brachytherapy and Advanced External Beam Therapy Techniques at the University Clinic of Radiotherapy and Oncology in Skopje.

With regards to the next Technical Cooperation Project Cycle 2018-2019, four National project concepts have been positively assessed and received a recommendation by the Agency's Secretariat for their further development into Project Designs. Two of the new project concepts are in the field of medicine, one is in the field of environmental radioactivity monitoring, and the fourth one refers to the Application of Ionizing Irradiations in Nanotechnology for Environmental, Energy and Health purposes.

My country gives full support to the Annual Report of the Agency for 2015 and to the Budget planned for 2017.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, allow me, once again, to reiterate our full support to the Agency's commitment to continue its activities in promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of all nations. The Republic of Macedonia will continue with its active partnership for the future IAEA activities aiming to fulfill its statutory obligations.

Thank you, Mr. President