



Montenegro

A DECADE
OF INDEPENDENCE
A MILLENNIUM
OF STATEHOOD
MONTENEGRO
2016



May Montenegro live forever

STATEMENT OF MONTENEGRO

IAEA 60th GENERAL CONFERENCE

as delivered by

**H.E. Ms. Slavica Milačić
Ambassador, Resident Representative
of Montenegro to the IAEA**

Vienna, 26-30 September 2016

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, let me first congratulate you on your election as the President of 60th session of the IAEA General Conference. I would like to assure you and the Secretariat of the full support of my delegation to successful conclusion of all issues on our agenda.

We also extend our congratulations and warm welcome to Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, and the Islamic Republic of Gambia as new members of the Agency.

Montenegro fully aligns with the EU statement and let me therefore stress only the matters of particular interest to my country.

Mr. President,

This year we do not only commemorate the 60th anniversary of the IAEA but also its leading role in fostering the global peace, security and sustainable development. During the six decades of existence, the IAEA has successfully carried out its mandate in the core areas of its responsibilities - non-proliferation regime, nuclear energy, nuclear safety and technical cooperation. We commend the IAEA for its work and assistance rendered to member states towards promotion of peaceful use of nuclear science and technology for the benefit of addressing development needs, as well as towards strengthening nuclear safety and security. In this regard, we appreciate the leadership and efforts of the Director General H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano and the work carried out by the Secretariat.

Faced with the growing complexity of global threats and challenges, the Agency has successfully adjusted to the changing circumstances and evolving needs of the member states. We will continue to count on the Agency to effectively deliver on its mandate for a safer and more prosperous world. We look forward to the contribution of the Agency towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, given the relevance of the nuclear science and technology in this regard. Montenegro will remain steadfast in contributing to the Agency's Atoms for Peace and Development mission.

Mr. President,

Montenegro has significantly benefited from the fruitful cooperation with the IAEA. We approach this cooperation from the standpoint of ensuring safety and security and facilitating sustainable economic and environmental development for the benefit of our

citizens and enhancement of their quality of life. Close collaboration with the IAEA has an added value for Montenegro since it helps us fulfil requirements stemming from the ongoing EU accession process.

On this note, let me thank the Agency and its Secretariat for comprehensive and wide-ranging technical assistance extended to my country. Montenegro has taken part in numerous Technical Cooperation projects at national, regional and interregional level, that helped us develop capacities and preparedness in five fields identified in the Country Programme Framework, specifically: 1) *Nuclear Sciences and Applications*, 2) *Sustainable Development and the Environment*, 3) *Health*, 4) *Radiation Protection, Nuclear Safety and Security* and 5) *Human Resource Development*.

This year we also hosted two IAEA expert missions – Fact Finding Expert Mission of the Department of Nuclear Science and Applications and the Expert Mission of the Nuclear Security Department.

Mr. President,

Montenegro is a staunch supporter of the IAEA's core responsibilities in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear safety and security. As a state party of all major IAEA Conventions and other international instruments in this field, Montenegro fully abides by its international commitments, determined to meet the highest international standards of nuclear safety and security and to harmonize its national regulatory and legislative framework with the IAEA Safety Standards. To this end, we have been undertaking activities to develop comprehensive national framework for ensuring safety for our citizens and protection of public health and environment from potential nuclear safety and security risks. Just a few weeks ago, the Government of Montenegro adopted National Strategy for Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. In May this year, National Action Plan for Response in Case of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Incident was also adopted. Together with Action Plan for implementation of the UNSCR 1540, Montenegro has established an effective foundation for prevention and suppression of proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as well as for response to potential CBRN accidents.

Mindful of the significance of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material for improving global nuclear security, and guided by the objective to contribute to its entry into force, Montenegro ratified this important instrument in March this year. Montenegro has no nuclear facilities within its territory. Montenegro's adherence to the Amendments to the Convention reaffirmed its full commitment to support and contribute to the global efforts on combating all forms of international terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, and in particular to reducing the likelihood of nuclear accidents, theft of nuclear material and similar.

Protection against harmful effects of ionizing radiation and radioactive waste management is also among the country's priorities. In January this year, Montenegro expressed its full readiness to the Director General of the IAEA to voluntarily implement the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources as well as Guidelines on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. As a state party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which for us entered into force in July 2015, Montenegro is constantly upgrading its capacities in this domain, committed to prevent any illegal use or mismanagement of radioactive materials and related knowledge and technologies. Our country has also recently submitted the First National Report on the implementation of this Convention.

In accordance with the obligations on creating early notification system for radiation accidents, Montenegro has established, with the support of the EU, a network of six 24-hour stations that measure ambient dose of gamma radiation in the air (so called GDR stations), thus considerably strengthening radiation protection and nuclear safety.

Our country is in the process of reviewing the Strategy and its Action Plan on the Ionizing Radiation Protection, Radiation Safety and Radioactive Waste Management.

Montenegro also plans to revise the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP), with the accompanying Action Plan. To this aim, Montenegro was provided with valuable advice and proposals by the IAEA Nuclear Security Department experts who visited Montenegro in late August. These recommendations will be very helpful in reviewing functional areas of our INSSP and the Implementation Action Plan. The Nuclear Security Information Management System is also one of the priorities to be incorporated in the revised INSSP.

In addition, preparatory activities towards Montenegro's membership in the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the European Urgent Radiological Information Exchange system are underway as well. Montenegro will further develop its legislative framework under the new project entitled "Upgrading National Capacities in Nuclear and Radiation Safety", which is supported by the IAEA and the EU.

Mr. President,

Montenegro is also state party to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. By adherence to the Convention in 2011, Montenegro reaffirmed its strong commitment to support and contribute to the strengthening of global nuclear liability regime in order to promote a higher level of nuclear safety in accordance with the principles of international partnership and solidarity as stipulated by the Convention. And this serves for the best interest of all countries regardless whether

they possess or not nuclear installations, since we have long recognized the risk of a nuclear accident causing transboundary damage.

Montenegro is also considering ratification of the Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention, pending the accession of a significant number of countries to the CSC.

All of these developments serve to demonstrate that, although significant progress has been made in the field of nuclear safety and security, Montenegro remains committed to further our efforts in order to be in compliance with the most recent international standards and the European Union *acquis*.

Mr. President,

Montenegro strongly supports the work of the Agency in the field of peaceful application of nuclear technology, as it gives tangible impetus to sustainable development and serves as a valuable tool to enhance human health. National technical cooperation programme focuses on upgrading QA/QC system in the diagnostics radiology for National Programme for Breast Screening. Agency's support is crucial for radiology and oncology in Montenegro as well as for improvement of our nuclear medicine capacities.

Let me conclude by reassuring you Mr. President that Montenegro will continue to lend its full support to the Agency's work as well as to the implementation of outcomes of this Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.