



Republika e Shqipërisë

Ministria e Punëve të Jashtme

**Statement by the Albanian Delegation
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Enhancing Global Efforts
5-9 December 2016, Vienna, Austria
As delivered by H.E. Mr. Ditmir Bushati
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania¹**

Mr. President,

- Allow me, to join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election as President of this Conference.
- I would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Amano, for convening this International Conference on Nuclear Security: *Commitments and Actions*.
- The Government of Albania gives high importance and priority to the international cooperation in the field of nuclear security.
- My country has been developing and enhancing its national nuclear security regime in the spirit of the 2013 Ministerial Declaration of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: *Enhancing Global Efforts*.
- The Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety convened by the IAEA Director General Amano in Vienna in June 2011 adopted the IAEA's Action Plan on Nuclear Safety in response of the nuclear accident in Fukushima.
- Now, after more than five years since we agreed on the Action Plan, we realize that the continuous implementation of the IAEA's Action Plan has been a major success for it has strengthened safety worldwide.
- The current IAEA's Nuclear Security Plan 2014-2017 has been contributing to global efforts to achieve effective security wherever nuclear and other

¹ Rendi i ndërhyrjes për RSH-në, është i 48-^u.

radioactive material is in use, storage and/or transportation, as well as to reduce risks and to respond appropriately to threats.

- In line with these efforts, The Government of Albania welcomes the entry into force in May 2016 of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which marks an important milestone towards the collective aim of strengthening nuclear security worldwide.
- The strengthening of synergy between nuclear safety and nuclear security makes them two more effective and efficient to the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism.
- We congratulate the Agency for its crucial contribution to international peace and security through its credible verification activities.
- Albania lends its full support to DG Amano for the Agency's work and activities aiming at strengthening the ability to verify non-diversion of declared nuclear material and activities. We commend the conclusions of the Agency that there are no undeclared nuclear material and activities in the majority of member states.
- Allow me Mrs President to highlight some of the legislative and policy measures we have introduced in the area of nuclear non-proliferation.
- First of all, we think it is essential that the effectiveness of the safeguards system is maintained and further strengthened. Albania has a Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement and an Additional Protocol in force. We expect that the Additional Protocol to become universal soon.
- Albania promotes universal adherence to and full implementation of all non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and conventions, in particular the (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons-or the NPT), as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. We believe that NPT is also vital for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.
- The Albanian Government remains constantly committed to further cooperate with the international community in interdicting of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and materials required to develop such weapons to states and non-states actors of proliferation concern. We have also welcomed the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 regarding the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.
-

- In this framework, we are working on a National Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction which will be approved in by the Council of Ministers at the end of this year.

Distinguished delegates

- To us, the nuclear security and combating of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials is of high importance. Albania is a participating State of the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) and also is taking part in the global plan of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to fight against nuclear terrorism.
- I would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the EU, the US, IAEA, itself, and other partners, for the assistance provided to us to create a modern infrastructure and introduce an adequate regulatory legislation on nuclear safety in accordance with international standards in this area.
-
- In this connection, Border monitoring has greatly improved and has been strengthened in many border check points.
-
- There are several land borders crossing points, as well as a number of seaports and one international airport subject to the radiation inspection and monitoring in Albania. Some of them are supplied with equipment for inspection of nuclear and radioactive materials; others are in the process of creating the proper infrastructure to do so and are involved in staff training.
- Albania appreciates the Agency's assistance to enforce our prevention capabilities.
- The IAEA pilot project on "Establishment of a framework and a pilot deployment of equipment to secure radioactive material out of state regulatory control in the Republic of Albania" is in process of implementation and we look forward to further strengthening of cooperation with the Agency in this field.
-
- In May this year, The Agency conducted the first International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission in Albania tasked to review the Albanian nuclear security-related legislative and regulatory framework for radioactive material and associated facilities and activities.
- We commend the work of the IPPAS team, which confirmed the steps we have taken towards strengthening nuclear security. We look forward to working with the Agency to address the mission's findings.

- Albania recognizes that bilateral, regional and international cooperation in matters related with nuclear safety and security can serve to strengthen nuclear security worldwide and contributes to international peace and security. In this context the role of the IAEA in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation and information exchange on nuclear security remains crucial. This activity confirms the vital importance of such an exchange of information and practices among all members, and is proof to the Agency's commitment to continue to offer the platform for this exchange and enhanced cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.