

**Check against delivery**

**S T A T E M A N T**

by

Ambassador Branimir Filipovic, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions, Vienna, December 5-9, 2016.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and honor to participate at the Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, I would like to commend IAEA DG Amano for organizing this significant event, in the year when we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the IAEA. This Conference should set a strong agenda on nuclear security in the upcoming period, further focusing international attention on nuclear safety topics and providing strategical guidelines for the IAEA Nuclear Safety Plan 2018-2021.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Serbia believes that the responsibility for nuclear security lies with the States in accordance with their respective national and international obligations, and therefore we remain fully committed to the common goals of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We share the view that NPT is a corner store of nuclear

non-proliferation and genuinely support the central role played by the IAEA in the global nuclear security framework. The Republic of Serbia will continue to make efforts to improve national nuclear security and safety legislation, to meet internationally recognized security requirements and to implement all obligations under relevant international instruments and conventions.

Mr. President, distinguished guests,

The Republic of Serbia has fully aligned itself with the Statement made on behalf of the European Union, but in my national capacity, allow me to highlight a number of concrete steps undertaken by my country in order to enhance nuclear security in all its aspects. It is my privilege to inform you that the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia has ratified the Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in March this year. This ratification has paved the way for global entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) –which we strongly welcome.

Also, the Convention on Nuclear Safety as well as the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management are in the final stages of the ratification procedure. These ratifications will, furthermore, underwrite the strengthening of our national legal and regulatory frameworks.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has adopted the National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (on non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the means of their delivery) for the period 2012-2016 and established its inter-agency working group for the implementation of the Plan. Pending the recommendations and outcomes of the 1540 Comprehensive Review Process, we will upgrade our National Action Plan.

Also, being the participating country in the EU CBRN Regional Centre of Excellence, we are in the final phase of adoption of our National Action Plan to mitigate chemical, biological and radiological risks.

Mr. President,

Developing our national regulations in the field of nuclear security offers a sound legal foundation for developing Design Basis Threat and physical protection system for operators, as well as long-term plans and strategic goals in the field of nuclear safety and security. In the area of improvement of physical protection systems in relevant facilities, our National Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency has developed the valuable cooperation with the Office of Radiological Security from the US Department of Energy.

Our National Integrated Nuclear Security Plan has been revised this year, and new activities and plans for further development have been recognized. The activities in the framework of further development of the Integrated Nuclear Security Plan have been carried

outwith the generous support of IAEA assistance program. Additional plans include the further improvement of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, as well as of supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

Although applications of nuclear energy have already been brought under control and covered by the sets of national legal instruments, the Republic of Serbia is strongly committed to continue further enhancement of its national nuclear legal and regulatory systemsby makingthem more comprehensive andbringing them in line with thelatest international safety standards and best practices and with the EU acquis.

Mr. President,

Allow me to close my remarks by reiterating that the Republic of Serbia fully supports bilateral, regional and international cooperation aiming to strengthen nuclear security. Therefore, we are supporting just adopted Ministerial Declaration and subscribe to The Statement of Principles of the Nuclear Security Contact Group. In that respect, we welcome the establishment of the Nuclear Security Contact Group and we stand ready to make our full contribution and to participate in the future meetings of this group.

Thank you for your attention.