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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO
THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

**Statement by the Delegation of Albania
to the 62nd Session of the General Conference of the IAEA
As delivered by the Ambassador Igli HASANI,
Permanent Representative of the Republic Albania to the IAEA
Vienna, 18 September 2018**

Madam President,

Allow me to join previous speakers to congratulate you upon your election as President of the 62nd Session of the IAEA General Conference, as well as other elected officials of the Conference. Assuring you of Albania's full support and cooperation, I'm confident that under your guidance this Conference will accomplish its objectives successfully.

Madam President,

Deputy Director General,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Albania celebrated 61st anniversary of IAEA membership and we are proud to have been among the first group of states to sign and ratify the Agency's statute and to take part in the 1st General Conference in October 1957.

The IAEA is imperative for the safety and security worldwide and I commend the leadership of Mr. Amano during the last ten years, which shows a clear commitment in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, safety and security and wish him a quick recovery.

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Albania welcomes the organization of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, from 28 to 30 November 2018, in Vienna and look forward to the discussion on the contribution, integration and use of nuclear science, technology and applications for peaceful uses, as well as on the importance of the Agency's TC Programme in this regard.

We support the efforts of the IAEA to help build capacity in response to Member States' needs, and invite all IAEA Member States with nuclear power and radiation technology, especially embarking countries, to make full use of Agency Safety Standards and become active Contracting Parties to all relevant international Nuclear Safety Conventions.

Madam President,

Albania gives high importance and priority to the international cooperation in the field of nuclear security to ensure the most effective prevention and combating of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. Let me assure you again of Albania's deep appreciation for the continuous support that the Agency has offered towards strengthening the national nuclear security regime and improving the radioactive monitoring capacities of my country.

Albania submitted the National Report on Security of Radioactive Sources which presents the status of management practices and regulatory inspections for the security of sealed radioactive sources.

We are completing the review and approval of the Albania's Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP). Last Review Meeting was held on 10-13 July 2018 with the objectives to conduct the review of the six functional areas of INSSP for further implementation of nuclear security activities in Albania; to identify achievements as well as additional national needs and assist Albania to prioritize such needs; to propose effective and efficient implementation plan for the next 3 years and to increase awareness on the Nuclear Security Information Management System.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Albania is proud of its excellent cooperation with the Agency in successfully implementing its national technical cooperation programme. Over the years, the IAEA's technical cooperation programme has triggered a significant improvement of diagnostic and therapeutic cancer services and, in parallel, has supported the establishment of the necessary radiation safety infrastructure.

The "Mother Teresa" University Hospital in Tirana has now a new modern radiotherapy centre, which is also running a modern nuclear medicine service. This centre of excellence for the entire country would not have been possible without the Agency's contribution, the sustained commitment of the Albanian government and the dedication of the staff, trained also with the support of the Agency.

Albania has signed the new Country Programme Framework with the Agency for the period 2018-2023, which reflect the following priority areas:

- Human Health, including nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, medical imaging and medical physics,
- Natural resources, exploration and identification,
- Environment protection and conservation,
- Food production and agriculture,
- Radiation Protection, Safety and Security.

Albania has been a regular contributor to the technical cooperation fund, paying its contributions towards the Regular Budget on time and in full, which we encourage all Member States to do. It is a pre-requisite for ensuring sustained and predictable resources for the Agency, to be used for the benefit of its Member States.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to the Agency for its contribution to these achievements. In particular, I wish to commend the dedication and commitment of all IAEA staff from TC Divisions of Europe and PACT.

Madam President,

At the end, I would like to conclude by reiterating again my delegation's full support to you in steering this General Conference to a successful conclusion.

I wish once again to express the full support of the Albanian Government to the Agency in the realization of its statutory functions under the excellent guidance of its Director General.

Thank you.