



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the 62nd
General Conference of the IAEA**

Vienna, 17 September 2018

Madam President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland[†], Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, San Marino.
2. First, let me congratulate you, Madam President, on your election as President of this 62nd General Conference. The EU would also like to thank the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial work.
3. The EU attaches great importance to the IAEA's core mandate in the fields of non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and technical cooperation.
4. The EU attaches importance to the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. The EU encourages the IAEA work to increase the representation of women in the professional categories and management positions within the Secretariat, and to strengthen systematic mainstreaming of gender equality aspects into the Agency's programmes and projects.
5. The EU and its Member States fully support a one-house approach and cross-functional cooperation in all IAEA activities and consider that good coordination between the various Agency Departments is crucial to the efficient programme delivery.

Madam President,

6. The EU is fully committed to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The EU reiterates its firm support for the full, complete, and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and

[§]Candidate Country

*Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[†]Iceland is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and vital for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. We continue to support the universalisation of the NPT and call upon States that have not yet done so to join the NPT as non-nuclear weapon States.

7. We would like to underline the importance of the IAEA safeguards system in the implementation of the NPT as well as the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance. The EU further recognises the serious proliferation challenges which continue to be a threat to international security, and the need to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions to them.

Madam President,

8. The EU is determined to work with the international community to preserve the JCPOA, an agreement, unanimously endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231. We therefore deeply regret the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA. The EU stresses that as long as Iran continues to implement its nuclear related commitments, as it has been doing so far and has been confirmed by the IAEA in its reports, the EU will remain committed to the continued full and effective implementation of the nuclear deal. We call on all parties to implement all parts of the JCPOA fully and effectively. While welcoming the ongoing implementation, the EU reiterates the need for Iran to continue abiding strictly by all its nuclear-related commitments and to cooperate fully and in a timely manner with the IAEA, including through implementation of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, including by providing all requested access. In this regard, the early ratification by Iran of the AP is essential. The EU fully supports the IAEA's long-term mission of verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments and recalls the importance of ensuring the necessary means for the Agency to carry out its role.
9. The recent inter-Korean high-level talks, the Panmunjom Declaration, and the Joint Statement after the Summit in Singapore between the US and the DPRK are positive steps that can contribute to easing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. While we support these diplomatic efforts the EU urges

the DPRK to engage seriously in the follow-on negotiations and to take concrete steps to embark on a credible path towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation and maintain its declared suspension of testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. Until the DPRK does take these concrete steps towards denuclearization, we will continue to strictly enforce existing sanctions and call upon all States to continue to do so. We urge the DPRK to comply with relevant UNSC resolutions and return to the NPT and to IAEA Safeguards at an early date and to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay. The EU expects that this General Conference sends clear messages in this regard in its resolution to be adopted on the DPRK. The EU continues to attach the highest importance to maintaining an essential role for the IAEA in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme and welcomes and supports the Secretariat's efforts to enhance its readiness to do so.

10. Recalling the resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 June 2011, which concluded that Syria is in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement, the EU urges Syria to cooperate promptly and transparently with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues including through concluding and implementing an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.
11. The EU reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East and reiterates its readiness to assist in the process leading to its establishment. We maintain the view that dialogue and building confidence among all stakeholders is the only sustainable way towards a meaningful conference, to be attended by all States of the Middle East on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them.

Madam President,

12. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current verification standard and the EU continues to call for their universalisation without delay. We welcome that Honduras, Senegal and Thailand have recently brought into force Additional Protocols. In this respect, the EU welcomes the fact that 132 States have Additional Protocols in force and also notes that another 17 States have signed an Additional Protocol but have yet to bring it into force. The EU furthermore

urges the remaining 36 States which have not yet amended the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP), to accelerate their efforts.

13. The EU strongly supports the continued improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation through implementation of State-level Safeguards Approaches (SLAs). A consistent and universal application of the SLAs strengthens global non-proliferation efforts.
14. For the EU, the close cooperation between EURATOM and the IAEA is conducive to effective and efficient safeguards both in the EU as well as beyond. The EU is actively supporting the Agency's safeguards system through the EC Safeguards Support Programme, the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and through Member States' Support Programmes.

Madam President,

15. The EU remains firmly committed to the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and ensuring that high standards of safety, security and safeguards are implemented to protect our collective non-proliferation interests. We look forward to the full establishment of the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank in 2019. The EU has supported this project with around € 25 million, € 20 million for the purpose of acquiring the LEU and around € 4.4 million for safety and security related measures.
16. The EU notes that projections for global installed nuclear power capacity indicate an increase by 2030, with different regional developments. Although these projections have been lowered since 2010, we note that nuclear power remains an important option for some IAEA Member States. While acknowledging that any country has its sovereign right to decide on its own energy mix, some countries consider that the nuclear power production is a way to prevent or reduce greenhouse gases emissions and thus fight against climate change, whereas other countries have chosen other options to achieve the same. Modernisation of existing nuclear power plants and construction of new ones continues in several regions of the world, including Europe. Nuclear facilities should only be planned and constructed with strict adherence to relevant international conventions and nuclear safety standards, and national legislation, regulations and

guidance. It is important that this process is underpinned by open dialogue with neighbouring countries and transparent public communication.

17. The EU, through its Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, has allocated € 225 million over the period 2014 – 2020 in support of third countries to promote a high level of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards. We are fully committed to continue our activity by retaining a dedicated instrument beyond 2020. We would like to draw attention to the EBRD Donors conference in November 2018 dedicated to the support for the environmental remediation in Central Asia. We emphasise the importance for all IAEA MS, in position to do so, to further strengthen their support to nuclear safety activities.
18. The EU and its Member States attach utmost importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of nuclear safety. EURATOM has over the past decades established and further developed an advanced, legally-binding and enforceable multilateral nuclear legal framework applicable in all EU Member States. The amended Council Directive on Nuclear Safety adopted in 2014 in response to the Fukushima accident aims to further strengthen the framework for safety of nuclear installations in the EU and introduces, inter alia, a new nuclear safety objective to prevent accidents and avoid radioactive releases and sets up a European system of peer reviews on specific safety issues at least every 6 years. The first such peer review, dedicated to the issue of ageing management of nuclear power plants, has been recently completed. The EU has since 2011 provided its expertise via comprehensive risk and safety assessment, so-called stress tests, in a number of neighbouring countries, with a view to building a more robust and sustainable nuclear safety framework worldwide, sharing good practice, and opening a constructive dialogue. To this end, we call upon these countries to properly implement the findings and recommendations of these assessments in a timely manner. We reiterate our support for this process. The EU and its Member States see it as a priority that the experience of Member States and the lessons learnt on activities related to the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the Report on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety on Principles for the Implementation of the Objective of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to Prevent Accidents and

Mitigate Radiological Consequences and the safety issues identified by the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention Review Meetings clearly identify the nuclear safety priorities of the IAEA, and help the Agency to ensure that its work adds value where it is most needed, does not duplicate activities undertaken elsewhere and makes the best use of its resources.

Madam President,

19. The EU stresses the need to continue strengthening nuclear security worldwide in order to prevent nuclear terrorism and the misuse of nuclear and radioactive material. To that end, we highlight the importance of becoming party to and fully implementing the relevant treaties, the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and underline the importance of the UNSC Resolutions 1540 and 2325. In the context of the EU strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, we are actively supporting international initiatives, which contribute to strengthening nuclear security. For the period 2014-2020, the EU dedicates more than €100 million to the EU's regional Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence initiative.
20. The EU strongly supports the central role of the IAEA in improving the global nuclear security framework by strengthening international cooperation, offering advisory services and providing direct assistance to Member States. We call on Member States to make full use of the IAEA's Nuclear Security Advisory services. We call on IAEA Member States to ensure the availability of sufficient resources for these services and that their national laws and regulations take into account the guidance documents of the Nuclear Security Series. Together with the bilateral contributions from its Member States, the European Union is among the biggest donors to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. The EU financial contribution alone to the Fund, based on seven successive Council Joint Actions/Decisions, has reached nearly €50 million for the period of 2009-2019. EU funding to the IAEA has helped the Agency to assist countries to upgrade and ensure the physical protection of selected facilities and to improve their national regulatory infrastructure. Let me stress that for the

EU, technical cooperation and nuclear security are complementing and mutually reinforcing concepts.

21. The EU is committed to fully implement the provisions of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and will continue to help States in their efforts to do so. We furthermore encourage the Agency to promote universalisation of the Convention. We are also fully committed to engage in the preparation of the forthcoming review meeting in 2021.

Madam President,

22. The EU and its Member States continue to be strong supporters of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, including through the TC Fund and its other supplementary mechanisms such as the Peaceful Uses Initiative, and are the second largest contributor to the TC Programme. We fully appreciate the Agency's role in promoting responsible development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of, inter alia, human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, preservation of cultural heritage, nuclear and radiation safety, and nuclear energy. We positively note that the IAEA has continued to actively engage in the global dialogue on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology in November this year will provide an opportunity to highlight Member States' support to the IAEA in this endeavour. We also welcome the Secretariat's present and future efforts to promote gender equality and strengthen gender mainstreaming throughout the TC Programme.
23. We also commend the Agency for the further development of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) for the control or eradication of malaria, dengue, Zika and disease-transmitting mosquitos, which remain an extremely severe threat to the health of millions of people worldwide. The IAEA's Nuclear Sciences and Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf (NA Laboratories) contribute essential work in this respect and we welcome the progress made by the Director General's initiative regarding the modernization of the NA Laboratories ("ReNuAL and ReNuAL+"). We commend the Secretariat for its innovative resource mobilisation strategy,

which enabled reaching out to non-traditional entities. We note that additional resources are needed for the completion of the ReNuAL project and we call upon all Member States in a position to do so to consider further contributions. The European Union supports both the IAEA, and IAEA Member States, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, also through technical expertise and with an average contribution of € 15 million per year.

24. The EU welcomes the decision of the Director General to devote this year's Scientific Forum to "Nuclear Technology for Climate: Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptation". Nuclear technologies can make life-changing contributions to the health and well-being of people across the world, thereby playing an important role in reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finally Madam President,

The EU looks forward to a successful General Conference and would like to assure you of its full support.

I thank you.