

STATEMENT

BY THE REPUBLIC OF REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**62ND ANNUAL REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY GENERAL CONFERENCE**

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**SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SERBIA**

Vienna, 17 - 21 September 2018

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia. I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, and other members of the Bureau, upon your election to this high office. I wish you every success in this important task, and on behalf of the Serbian delegation let me assure you of our full support and cooperation.

The Republic of Serbia highly appreciates the results made by the IAEA under the leadership of the Director General Amano. We look forward to continuing a successful cooperation with him. At the same time, it is my great pleasure to greet the Agency Acting Director General, Ms. Mary Alice Hayward and to wish her success in responsible temporary duties she has. Distinguished Madam Hayward, let me assure you that you will have a full support and help of the Republic of Serbia.

The Republic of Serbia has fully associated itself with the Statement of the European Union and therefore let me further highlight only those issues of particular importance for my country.

Madam President,

The Republic of Serbia strongly underlines the global importance of Agency activities and cooperation in this field. We reaffirm our constant and strong commitment to all the basic principles and goals of our organisation, for safe and secure

application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. My country will continue to support the Agency's programmes for a stronger efficiency and successful implementation of verification measures, and for the development of integrated safeguards, in line with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Let me emphasise that for the past year, my country has made a remarkable progress and, among other things, passed three immensely important laws.

We ratified the **Protocol Additional to the Agreement for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**. In the final stage is also the process of adoption of the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan. The Republic of Serbia will continue with a strong support to global efforts of the international community, for the efficient mechanisms against illicit trafficking in nuclear material and other radioactive sources.

Madam President,

Priority goals of our country remain as follows: health protection, environmental protection and ensuring the conditions in which nuclear energy may be used only for peaceful purposes, and conditions for achieving a global peace, prosperity and a well-being of future generations. Since the last General Conference, the Republic of Serbia has also passed the **Law Ratifying the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Law Ratifying the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management**, as well as the **Regulation on establishing**

National Radiation Emergency Plan. This way, a legal basis for improving the role of our country in the global implementation of nuclear safety measures has been put in place. Also, the Republic of Serbia will continue applying the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. We continue to recognise a great importance of these Agency documents for safety and security of radiation sources.

Madam President,

The Republic of Serbia gives great importance to the technical assistance provided by the Agency. It is essential for reaching a higher level of nuclear safety and security, and for meeting the Agency requirements and standards. The support in the functions of the Serbian Agency, safe nuclear waste management and the support in the field of health protection is also highly important.

In this context, many activities within national and regional projects are currently implemented in the Republic of Serbia. We support the Agency efforts for improvement of international standards and relevant international documents. We recognise the technical assistance of the Agency as a key contribution to our further progress in this field.

Madam President,

The Republic of Serbia is actively improving the position of the Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. We remain committed to making our legal and regulatory

framework stronger, in line with the international standards and the EU *acquis*. As we speak, our country is taking concrete steps for improvement of the legal status of the regulatory body. We are doing this for the purpose of ensuring its full independence and autonomy, stable funding and good professional and administrative capacities.

Madam President,

In conclusion, let me say that the Republic of Serbia gives its full support to the IAEA Annual Report for 2017, as well as to the Programs and Budget for 2019.

Thank you Madam President.