

STATEMENT OF GEORGIA

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Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing current and Emerging Development Challenge

Thank you Chairmen,

On behalf of the Government of Georgia, I congratulate you on your elections as co-chairs of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing current and Emerging development Challenge.

I assure you and Secretariat of the Georgian delegation's support in making this conference a success.

We attach great importance to the IAEA's core responsibilities in the field of non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and technical cooperation.

We value 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. I am confident, that this Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology will provide an opportunity to highlight Member States' support to the IAEA in this endeavour.

Nuclear science and technology, transmitted through the IAEA, has a significant role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We support the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme which contributes to such diverse fields as human health, food security and water management.

Distinguished Chairmen,

Georgia continues its irreversible development in the field of Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security. The interest with regard to the use of nuclear techniques in industry, human health, food and agriculture as well as in education and training is growing steadily. During the past three years, more than 10 legislative acts with the aim of addressing unregulated safety and security related issues have been elaborated.

My delegation fully supports the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, through which, in a non-discriminatory way and in accordance with the Agency's Statute, the provision of services and technical assistance to the Member States is conducted. In our view, the TC programme is central in supporting the use of nuclear science, applications and technology with an aim to promote tangible socioeconomic progress.

Let me highlight several activities carried out in the framework of IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, such as providing cementing equipment that was installed in radioactive waste disposal facility of Georgia. National regulatory infrastructure is strengthened and supported fundamentally through national and regional projects. Such projects remain one of the core tools for development and sustaining knowledge in the fields covered by the Agency. Therefore, relevant parties actively participate in workshops, training courses and study visits through national regulatory body.

Distinguished Chairmen,

This year was remarkable by the visit of H.E Director General Yukiya Amano to Georgia. The visit focused on the current situation in Georgia in terms of nuclear and radiation safety and technical cooperation programme that is the main source of nuclear and radiation safety reformation for Georgia to reach international standards. Director General reaffirmed his support for Georgia's reforms in nuclear and radiation safety and shown willingness for long-term cooperation. In this context let me express our appreciation.

In this regard, we are pleased that scope of the Technical Cooperation Program for Georgia has expanded recently and we plan to implement a project on strengthening agriculture laboratory capacity with the assistance of the IAEA.

To sum up my statement, let me express that Georgia will stay firmly committed to supporting international cooperation on nuclear security, nuclear science and technology. Let me wish you and the Conference every success.

I thank you.