

Statement of the Republic of Turkey

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology; 28-30 November 2018

Mr. Chairman,

It is a great pleasure for me to address this Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology. Allow me first to thank you for your excellent work as the co-chairs of this conference. Let me also extend our appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to Director General Amano for organizing this prestigious and timely event.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey recognizes the significant benefits of the nuclear science and technology in many areas of our lives.

Nuclear techniques, radiation applications and isotopic techniques are making an important contribution to improving health, food and environment in Turkey. Radioactive sources and radiation generation devices are extensively used for several purposes by a variety of institutions in a safe and secure manner.

Nuclear power is one of the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases available to generate electricity. As part of its national policy to improve energy security and to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, Turkey is aiming at the production of 10 percent of its electricity from nuclear power by 2030. To achieve this goal, Akkuyu Nuclear Power Project is being implemented; Sinop Nuclear Power Project is at the stage of evaluation of feasibility; and a third project is at planning stage.

Mr. Chairman,

Radiation measurement, radioactivity analysis and personnel dosimetry services are critically important for effective implementation of nuclear techniques and radiation applications. These services are provided by the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority and other authorized laboratories.

Turkey attaches importance to acceleration technologies. A Proton Accelerator Facility has been established in Ankara to produce radiopharmaceuticals and to carry out research and training. Furthermore, Turkish Accelerator Center Project aiming to develop a national capacity for research, education and training has been implemented.

Turkey is also a member of the SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) and an associated member of CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research). Our scientists and universities have actively participated in the research projects in these nuclear research centres.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey has been a Member State of the Agency since 1957. We continue to benefit from the Technical Cooperation with the Agency, and to share our knowledge and expertise with the Member States through the Technical Cooperation Programme. During the 62nd General Conference, Turkey signed the new Country Programme Framework for the 2018-2023 period and the priority areas were identified for the technical cooperation with the Agency.

For us, the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories are very important in developing and refining relevant nuclear techniques and in delivering them to the Member States. In this context, we welcome the progress of the ReNuAL project aimed at modernizing the Agency's Laboratories in Seibersdorf. We would like to remind that, to demonstrate our political commitment to supporting the efforts to this end, Turkey has provided a symbolic financial contribution to the ReNuAL project.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey will continue to focus on improving the well-being and prosperity of its people through the use of nuclear science and technology in energy, food, agriculture, industry, water management, human health and environment.

We fully appreciate the Agency's role in promoting the development of and benefiting from the peaceful use of atomic energy in a safe, secure, sustainable and responsible manner and in accordance with the international obligations and engagements enshrined in the relevant conventions and agreements.

Turkey attaches importance to an effective international nuclear cooperation, as an important facilitator and contributor to the implementation of all three pillars of the NPT. We look forward to strengthening and deepening the international cooperation in the future. We also hope that this conference will make a significant contribution towards achieving a successful outcome from the approaching NPT 2020 Review Conference.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,