

TRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JORGE FAURIE EMBAJADOR JORGE FAURIE

**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
DELIVERED AT THE 63° IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Madam President

Mr. Acting Director General

Distinguished colleagues

- It is an honour for me, as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, to address the 63rd General Conference under Mexico's presidency.
- I would like to start by reiterating that the Arg. Gov. deeply regrets the death of Yukiya Amano, who led this organization with excellence for 10 years.
- Argentina has always underscored IAEA's role in the promotion of exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the management of the safeguards system in compliance with the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
- International coop. is essential for expanding the benefits of nuclear energy and its uses as a key tool to achieve development goals for the benefit of people.

Madam President,

- Nuclear energy is one of the most advanced forms of scientific and technical development in the search for clean, efficient, sustainable and affordable energy sources.

- Nuclear energy also favours progress in the field of agriculture, medicine, engineering, metallurgy, iron and steel and mechanics, assisting various economic sectors and contributing to the development of infrastructure and employment.
- My country has understood this and has a 6-decade-long tradition of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- Argentina has mastered the nuclear fuel cycle and maintains a robust nuclear programme:
 - three operational power plants, a reactor of Argentine design that is currently under construction, numerous research reactors, capacity to produce nuclear fuels, heavy water and medical radioisotopes.
- Additionally, Argentina has positioned itself as a reliable global provider in the nuclear sector and is carrying out a number of projects, both with traditional partners and in new markets, with research and radioisotope production reactors, among others.
- I would also like to highlight that women have set significant milestones for the development of the Argentine nuclear sector, which is made up of female radiochemists, mathematicians and engineers. As a result of their work, some of these women have received international recognition, which fills us with pride and is a testament to their capacity, professionalism and dedication for the benefits of atomic energy to reach every corner of my country.

Madam President,

- As you are aware, nuclear cooperation between Argentina and Brazil is one of the most dynamic and strongest in the world, based on trust and political dialogue. It is one of the pillars of integration, an unprecedented example, and a concrete contribution to international peace and security.

- This year marks the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the "Agreement between Argentina, Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the application of safeguards", known as "Quadripartite Agreement".
- In the Joint Declaration on Nuclear Policy signed in July, Argentina and Brazil expressed their satisfaction with that instrument, as it made it possible for ABACC and IAEA to efficiently implement verification inspections in both countries in order to offer strong guarantees to the International Community on the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy, for the scientific, technological, economic and social development of both nations. I wish to highlight the level of maturity displayed in the cooperation between both verification agencies.

Madam President,

- Latin America and the Caribbean were pioneers in the creation of the world's 1st nuclear-weapon-free densely populated area through the "Tlatelolco Treaty".
- However, the Latin American and Caribbean Region is the only one in the world to have never been given the opportunity to lead the International Atomic Energy Agency in over 60 years.
- The IAEA is an organization that requires a relevant background and very specific knowledge. We believe that it is time Latin America and the Caribbean took on this role, and we have the right candidate for that.
- Argentina has presented the candidacy of Ambassador Rafael Grossi for the position of Director General of this organization.
- Ambassador Grossi:
 - is a career diplomat;

- has over 35 years of professional experience in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament and
- has held some of the highest international positions in this field, having acted as IAEA Chief of Cabinet and Assistant Director General for Policy.
- Ambassador Grossi will bring to the IAEA the necessary technical expertise and diplomatic leadership to ensure that it remains the indispensable and undisputed international institution in the nuclear field, keeping its strong reputation while projecting it into future challenges.
- We hope to count on the support of your respective countries for this candidacy.

Madam President,

- Nuclear safety remains one of the most overarching, serious challenges to international safety.
- In my country, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority is the technical independent regulatory entity in charge of overseeing the activity, including the construction of reactors, such as modular reactor prototype "CAREM" and multi-purpose reactor "RA-10."
- Argentina has confirmed that its new nuclear plants will be designed, set up and built following the Vienna Declaration parameters. In addition, Argentina has submitted its eighth National Nuclear Safety Report (January 2016 - May 2019) in the context of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.
- This year, Argentina's "Embalse" Nuclear Power Station has been refurbished to extend its life cycle. This life extension process was closely monitored by the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, and the operation licence for the station's second life cycle was delivered last week. This is a historical milestone, as it is the first project to extend the life of an Argentine power station, the third project of its kind in the world for a

“CANDU” reactor, and the project of greatest scope in terms of refurbishments and replacements. During its second life cycle, Embalse will generate 6% more power for the national power system, maintain production of Cobalt-60 for the medical and industrial radioisotope market, and has renewed compliance with safety standards.

Madam President,

- It is worth noting the work carried out with the IAEA in the field of physical safety and protection in the context of large-scale public events, such as the G20 summit held in Argentina last year.
- My country frequently hosts important nuclear safety-related events, such as the "International Workshop on Integrating Nuclear Physical Security Application in Major Urban Areas" (2018), or the "Workshop on Periodical Examination of Operational Safety of Stations" (March 2019), and takes part in the “Nuclear Security Contact Group”, and the “Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material”, as amended, among others.
- We would like to underscore, once again, the entry into force of the "Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material," to which we are a party, and convey our support for its universalization.

Madam President,

- I am pleased to announce that the Argentine Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the IAEA Secretariat have carried out the preparatory meeting to receive the Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission in the second quarter of next year.
- On the other hand, Argentina would like to underscore the work of the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO) and its close cooperation with the IAEA, which has enabled effective continuation of its

technical programme. On this occasion, we would like to highlight the completion of the Forum on Stress Tests at Nuclear Power Plants in the Ibero-American Region, the results of which were recognized in the declaration of the 22nd Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government and in the context of the Extraordinary Meetings under the IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety.

- We hope that this synergy with the organization will contribute to the dissemination of contributions made by the forum to all regions, and that the IAEA will recognize activities undertaken by the forum by means of the Nuclear and Radiological Safety Resolution, where it highlights support for regional efforts in furtherance of safety through the exchange of information and experience.

Madam President,

- In 2010, Argentina adhered to the "Statement of Principles of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism." I would like to highlight the Plenary Meeting of the initiative, held in Buenos Aires in June this year, where the outcomes achieved and progress made over the past two years in the fields of nuclear detection, nuclear forensics analysis, and response and mitigation were reviewed.

Madam President,

- Argentina will continue to actively support the work carried out by the Agency and the international community to achieve safe nuclear energy and non-proliferation.
- In line with its Atoms for Peace and Development mandate, the Agency must support the efforts by Member States to attain the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Nuclear Science and Technology may help to achieve this purpose in the fields of energy, healthcare, food and water and environmental protection.

Madam President,

- In sum, I wish to reiterate to all attendants that Argentina, Latin America and the Caribbean, will find in Ambassador Grossi the best candidate for IAEA to expedite and expand the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Once again, we hope to count on your support.
- Thank you.