



**Statement
of the Republic of Cyprus to the 63rd IAEA General Conference
Vienna, Austria, 16-20 September 2019
by the Head of Delegation,**

Mr. Christos Malikkides

**Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social
Insurance
of the Republic of Cyprus**

Chairperson,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the Sixty-third General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are convinced that, under your stewardship this Conference will accomplish its work successfully. I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Cypriot delegation in discharging your responsibilities. We also express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Agency, for their dedicated and professional work.

Allow me also, Chairperson, to express our condolences for the passing of the IAEA Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano as well as our appreciation for the valuable assistance he offered to Cyprus through the years. Throughout his ten year tenure as Director General, Ambassador Amano served the IAEA, as well as its Member States, with unwavering determination and commitment. He was a man of remarkable dedication and professionalism, at the service

of the international community in the most impartial way. Under his leadership the Agency delivered concrete results to achieve the objectives of “Atoms for Peace and Development” as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. DG Amano leaves behind a strong legacy in all fields covered by the IAEA's mandate, be it non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security or technical cooperation.

Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Cyprus fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Finland, on behalf of the EU. We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Agency for its achievements and contribution to non-proliferation efforts, to strengthening the international nuclear safety and security framework, to promoting international cooperation by assisting states with capacity building and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Republic of Cyprus, as a Contracting Party to all major international Treaties and Conventions relating to nuclear safety and security, assures of its full commitment to their implementation. In this regard, we wish to underscore the crucial importance of the Non- Proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone and linchpin of the international non-proliferation regime. We pledge to work with our partners, regionally and internationally towards achieving the goal of achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Chairperson,

This Conference, as an important global gathering, provides an opportunity to briefly outline in our national capacity, important priorities and targets. It also offers the opportunity to all participants, and to the world, to get further acquainted with and to discuss the latest applications of ionising radiation

developed around the world with the support of the IAEA. The use of technology to improve our quality of life is demonstrated in the various relevant exhibits and meetings taking place. We strongly support research efforts towards world peace and development and in the past few years have experienced a surge in related research in our universities, institutes and research centers, utilizing the latest technological developments, establishing our country as a center for innovation and research. IAEA support has been invaluable in these efforts. We believe that ionising radiation applications should be further developed and expanded, improving our lives and our environment. We invite research institutions from all Member States to cooperate with each other so that this can be achieved.

We highly value the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA in enhancing the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and appreciate its role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Republic of Cyprus has benefited from various projects funded by the Technical Cooperation Fund in terms of knowledge transfer and acquisition of expertise. Over the years, we have co-organized a number of IAEA meetings, workshops and training courses in our country, including several during the past year, and avails itself in supporting more IAEA Technical Cooperation events in the future.

We will continue our efforts to maintain and strengthen radiation, transport and waste safety, as well as emergency preparedness and response, and radiation protection. In this context, Cyprus has proposed 2 national projects for the 2020 to 2023 programme cycles and signed a new Country Programme Framework during the last IAEA General Conference. We have also completed, during the past year, the IAEA Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan for Cyprus and we are closely working with the IAEA in further improving security matters in the country.

The 2018 revision of Cyprus' legislative framework took into account the recommendations and suggestions of the Agency's Integrated Regulatory Review Service peer review mission of 2017. I take this opportunity to invite the Member States to take full advantage of such peer review missions, as they have proven to be valuable tools in supporting the national arrangements on radiation safety. Cyprus has also placed an official request for an ARTEMIS review mission. We are currently progressing, amongst others, with the establishment of a National Policy on Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Protection, a National Strategy Ensuring the Appropriate Management of Existing Exposure Situations and a Strategy on the Recovery, Management, Control and Disposal of Orphan Sources.

During the past year, the Regulatory Authority of Cyprus, with the support of the IAEA, organized exercises and meetings for all stakeholders participating in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. As part of an ongoing process, the plan is to be reviewed and updated during the coming year. The Regulatory Authority also participated in several international exercises and I wish to express our gratitude to the Incident and Emergency Centre of IAEA for their continuous support and assistance.

In addition, the IAEA has provided Cyprus with experts that continuously support our efforts for the cradle to grave management of sealed radioactive sources, with emphasis on the management of legacy disused sealed radioactive sources. These activities are included in our proposed National Programmes.

The Republic of Cyprus commits itself to maintaining and further strengthening radiation, transport and waste safety, as well as emergency preparedness and response, and radiation protection. We are working to further enhance safety and security culture and to move towards an integrated management system for the regulatory authority. We aim to extend the application of a

graded approach in regulatory control and to further enhance radiation security and emergency preparedness and response.

Chairperson,

The Republic of Cyprus does not operate any nuclear power or research reactors or any other nuclear installations and its energy plans for the foreseeable future do not include nuclear energy. Nevertheless, we recognize the importance of the Nuclear Safety and Security Standards of the IAEA in ensuring nuclear safety and security worldwide. The Republic of Cyprus supports all measures and initiatives that strengthen nuclear safety both at national and at international level. Recognizing the work done by the Agency and its Member States on nuclear safety and security, we urge all IAEA Member States to further ensure the highest levels of safety and security of nuclear facilities, so as to protect their own country, their neighbouring countries and the rest of the world.

International and, especially, regional cooperation is of the utmost importance for nuclear safety and security considering the transboundary nature of the impact of any nuclear accident. In this context transparency, information to the public and consultation with neighbouring countries likely to be affected in case of a release of radioactivity from nuclear installations and their related activities is vital, from the stage of design and throughout the whole operational life of nuclear facilities.

We believe that no Member State should underestimate the risks to nuclear security, especially in areas of the world where the risk of a terrorist attack, loss of control or cyber-attack can be significant. In this context, Cyprus calls on its neighbouring, as well as all, Member States to cooperate regionally and exchange relevant information.

In concluding, I wish to express again our appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat and late Director General, Mr. Amano, and to deliver our confidence and support in the IAEA's efforts towards peace and development.

Thank you, Chairperson.