



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STATEMENT

**63rd GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Vienna, 16 - 20 September 2019

Madam President, excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, (PR of Mexico, H.E. Ambassador Alicia Guadalupe Buenrostro Massieu) and the other members of the Bureau on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia and to wish you success in your work. I assure you that Serbia will offer you full support and cooperation.

I would also like to pay tribute to recently deceased Director General Mr Yukiya Amano who, with his outstanding professionalism and commitment, inspired us to equal him in contributing to further strengthening the IAEA reputation.

Madam President,

Serbia aligned with the Statement by the European Union and I will further emphasise only a few issues particularly important for my country.

Firstly, Serbia reaffirms commitment to the fundamental principles and goals of the IAEA in terms of safe and secure use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our country will continue to support all IAEA efforts to strengthen and upgrade the efficient implementation of Safeguards, in compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. During the past year, Serbia has submitted to the IAEA the initial declaration on the Protocol Additional to the Agreement for the

Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, thereby fulfilling all obligations in this regard. This confirms our commitment to combating all threats arising from nuclear terrorism. Serbia will also continue emphasizing the importance of nuclear safety and security of radioactive sources and contribute to global efforts aimed at reinforcing efficient mechanisms of combating illicit trade of nuclear material and other radiation sources by improving their physical protection and by putting orphan sources under control.

Madam President,

Serbia is strongly committed to further strengthening its legal and regulatory framework related to radiation and nuclear safety and security in accordance with international standards and EU regulations. It is my pleasure to say that our Law on Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security entered into force last December, providing a higher level of population protection from the harmful effect of ionizing radiation and ensuring protection and development of the environment, production, trade and transport of radioactive material, the safe and secure performance of nuclear practices and activities, as well as radiation protection duties.

The Law also provided for the establishment of the Serbian Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security Directorate as an independent regulatory body with stable financial resources and sufficient expert and administrative capacities, which, for the

first time encompasses all regulatory duties in the remit of radiation and nuclear safety and security, including inspection oversight.

I would particularly like to express our gratitude for the assistance and support of the IAEA's Office of Legal Affairs in preparing the text of the law.

Madam President,

Serbia will also persevere in applying the Code of Conduct on radioactive sources, in line with the high importance we attach to these IAEA documents for enhancing radiation sources safety and security. In all, it is my great pleasure to inform that Serbia has ratified all relevant international conventions and duly fulfilled all related duties.

Madam President,

I also wish to emphasize the importance of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme for my country. This support is fundamental for the achievement of a higher level of nuclear safety and security, the fulfilment of IAEA standards of better control and use of nuclear energy, and for sustainable development of our society. I would particularly like to point out the continuous support our country has received in safe radioactive waste management and related activities, as well as in the field of public health.

Serbia is active in a number of national, regional and international projects. Although the Technical Cooperation Programme is still mainly focused on assistance for building human resources and capacity building through procurement of equipment – medical, diagnostic, therapeutic and other, there is also an increasing number of our experts participating in missions to other countries, as well as our institutions hosting foreign study and expert visits. In addition, Serbia is hosting a growing number of TC IAEA international meetings.

Madam President,

Before concluding, let me stress that Serbia fully supports the IAEA 2018 Annual Report and the 2020 programmes and budget.

Let me reassure you that we will consistently continue our full support of the IAEA and Secretariat activities, and will remain devoted to fundamental IAEA principles of safe and secure use of nuclear energy.

Thank you.

