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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO SIXTY-THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
Vienna, 16 September 2019**

*Delivered by Mr. Yury Fedotov, Director General
of the United Nations Office in Vienna.*

I am pleased to greet this General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Allow me to pay tribute to the late Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano. His commitment and expertise over the past 10 years steered the Agency to many achievements. He will be greatly missed. I also thank Acting Director General Cornel Feruta for assuming the temporary leadership of the Agency and continuing its important work.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This landmark treaty remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has played a crucial role in verifying its implementation. Safeguards verified by the Agency are essential to ensure that nuclear power is used exclusively for peaceful purposes. I urge States Parties to use the upcoming Review Conference to recommit to the three pillars of the Treaty: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

I welcome the Agency's continued efforts to verify Iran's commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. However, rising tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue are increasingly worrying. Sustained dialogue is essential to ensure peace and stability in the region.

I also note the Agency's contributions to addressing the climate emergency. Winning this race will require unprecedented efforts from all sectors of society. I look forward to hearing the results of the International Conference on Climate and the Role of Nuclear Power, which will be held in October.

I wish you a successful meeting.