

Honorable Chairpersons  
Distinguished Ambassadors,  
Dear colleagues,

Albania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and in my national capacity, I would like to add the following remarks.

We welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration yesterday morning as part of the success of this conference, but moreover as a new step forward towards the reaffirmation of the commitments of the member states for sustaining and strengthening the efforts on the nuclear security.

As a country that believes in the peaceful use of nuclear applications to the benefit of the sustainable development, Albania has established much of the legal and regulatory framework necessary to form the basis of a comprehensive security regime for radioactive sources and associated materials and facilities.

The domestic law, in line with the best practices of the international norms and standards, establishes and empowers the regulatory authority of the “Radiation Protection Commission” to enact security requirements on licensees. The regulatory body has also adopted and published the regulation regarding the security of radioactive sources and associated facilities. Licensing, inspection and enforcement for the security of radioactive sources are identified and comply with all the standards required for physical protection of materials.

The strategic objective of the Radiation Protection Commission, as the national independent authority, besides protecting persons, property, society, and the environment from the harmful consequences of a nuclear security event, is also to serve as a coordinating mechanism between the Ministry of Interior and Albania State Police in order to cover all issues related to assessment of threat, risk assessment, thus establishing the detection strategy and detection architecture.

Furthermore, Albania is part of the International Legal Instruments for Nuclear Security and adheres to several legally binding international conventions, which enact as national laws relevant to nuclear security. In order to harness the

domestic norms on nuclear security, Albania also has adopted legally non-binding international instruments.

In this regard, the Nuclear Security Regime in Albania through its legislative and regulatory framework and based on the work of independent institutions and organizations responsible for the nuclear security, is also focused on the prevention of the nuclear threats, their detection at an early stage, and rapid response if needed.

Dear colleagues,

The nuclear security cannot be achieved without strong partnerships. That's why, I would like to acknowledge the important assistance of International Atomic Energy Agency and of the US Government in Albania for aspects of security of radioactive material. As for the time being we are working on the threat assessment, our objective is to conduct a national threat and risk assessment, review and revise risk assessment regularly.

Another important mechanism that is also supporting Albania in this regard has been the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan.

As the challenges to the global nuclear security increase, we remain committed to further improve the detection strategy, detection architecture, the response mechanism and increasing the sustainability on security of radioactive material and facilities.

To this end, I just want to highlight that as IAEA's 2022-2025 Nuclear Security Plan consultation process is going to start soon, the relevance of this Ministerial Declaration should be reflected therein as an international document that helps the international cooperation to advance the nuclear security world-wide.

Thank you,