



GREECE

**Statement by Ambassador Panos Kalogeropoulos, Director General for International Organizations and International Security and Cooperation, Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts
Vienna February 10-14, 2020**

Co-Presidents, Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of Greece, I would like to express our gratitude to Director General Mr Rafael Grossi and the Agency's Secretariat for organizing this important 3rd Conference on Nuclear Security for all IAEA Member-States. Allow me also, on this occasion, to congratulate Mr Grossi for his appointment as Director General of the IAEA and wish him every success in his mission. Furthermore, I would like to commend all the work carried out by the two Co-Presidents of the Conference, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr Bogdan Aurescu, and the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, Mr Federico Alfaro Boyd, and assure them of our unwavering support to their endeavor. We welcome the Ministerial Declaration that has been adopted.

Greece fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden on behalf of the European Union, and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

We reaffirm the basic principle that responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State. We strongly support the central role of the IAEA in facilitating and coordinating bilateral, regional and international cooperation in strengthening nuclear security. Greece assigns paramount importance to the highest possible level of nuclear security worldwide and is particularly concerned about the emerging nuclear security threats in politically volatile regions. In this regard, we would like to underline the benefits of enhanced implementation and relevant transparency of the independent IAEA peer review missions and their follow-up recommendations. The implementation of the IAEA's Nuclear Security guidelines, measures and procedures has undeniably become a mandatory prerequisite.

Co-presidents, Director General, Excellencies,

Greece is proud to have a long and successful cooperation with the IAEA in the field of nuclear security that dates back to the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. We are committed to bolstering Nuclear Security through relevant actions, reaffirming our strong commitment to increasing bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the Agency in this field.

An IAEA Regional Training Centre in Europe for Nuclear Security was established at the Greek Atomic Energy Commission, through Practical Arrangements signed between the Greek Government and the IAEA at the margins of the first Nuclear Security Conference in 2013. Greece has provided ever since technical support through the Agency to several hundreds of national, regional and international State representatives in the area of nuclear security, including advanced in-field training and exercises on combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials at the radiation detection installations in the Greek Atomic Energy Commission and at Greece's entry points.

Greece, a founding member of the IAEA, has continuously supported the Agency's active involvement in the development of nuclear security guidelines, measures and fundamentals and by providing Greek experts to IAEA international missions, regional projects and technical meetings. Since the 2nd Nuclear Security Conference in December 2016, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission, in collaboration with national competent authorities, has upgraded several installations for radiation detection. In particular, at the Greek-Turkish border crossing in Kipi, a fixed radiation detection portal system for security screening of vehicles has been installed. Similar permanent fixtures have also been installed for security screening of pedestrians at the new cruise terminal at the seaport of Piraeus, and at the border crossing between Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia. This latter radiation detection portal system, placed at the customs office of the Evzoni border crossing, was undertaken in the framework of the EU interregional project STRASS (Safe Cross Border Transportation of Hazardous Material).

Additionally, the radiation detection portal systems of the Eleftherios Venizelos Athens International Airport, have been upgraded, while a pilot program for the security screening of pedestrians and cargo has been implemented for the Thessaloniki International Airport 'Makedonia'.

Furthermore, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission holds meetings to assess, improve and better coordinate initiatives and projects that fall under the nuclear security umbrella. More specifically, since the 2nd Conference on Nuclear Security Greece completed a detailed assessment of potential emergency exposure situation and associated protection strategies, based on the GSR Part 7 methodology. The assessment results will be used for the update of existing or the preparation of new emergency response plans ("Special Response Plans in Case of a Radiological or Nuclear Emergency" referred to as "ESRPEA"). The Commission continues its tradition of national education and training programs. Specifically, hundreds of customs and fire brigade officers have been trained in 20 courses, which consist of table-top exercises, in-the-field exercises and on-the-job training.

Finally, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission, with the support of the EU, intends to develop appropriate performance indicators for the evaluation of nuclear security at a national level as part of the institutional project entitled "Assessment of the national system for protection against ionizing and non-ionizing radiation –awareness-raising actions" (AVRA).

We have also invited an Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS mission).

In closing, I would like to reiterate the strong support of the Greek Government to the mission of the IAEA. We are confident that this Conference will add impetus to the promotion of international cooperation in nuclear security, and at the same time bring to the fore the responsibilities and obligations that all of us here present have as individual nations, but more importantly as a global community, when we use “atoms for peace”.

Thank you for your attention,

February 11, 2020