



**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UN, THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS in VIENNA**

**Address of Ambassador Veselin Šuković, Permanent Representative of
Montenegro to the UN, OSCE and other IOs in Vienna on the occasion of the
International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening
Efforts, February 10, 2020, Vienna**

MONTENEGRO STATEMENT

Excellences, Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor and a privilege to address you today on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. **Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement** made on behalf of the **European Union**. In addition, allow me to make few remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to begin by **joining other delegations in commending the dedicated work of the co-chairs and the Secretariat** during the negotiation process on the Ministerial Declaration throughout the last and this year. Montenegro strongly supports the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration as a guiding document for our national and international work in the next four years.

Nuclear security is a national responsibility, but, at the same time, it represents a joint responsibility of all of us. **Montenegro believes that the IAEA has a pivotal and a central role in the domain of global nuclear cooperation** and maintenance of international peace and security, and we are ready to continue contributing to the joint efforts in achieving these goals.

Excellences,

When it comes to nuclear security, **Montenegro's priority is the protection of nuclear and radioactive material from malicious acts**, and we are committed to the implementation of effective measures to prevent theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, illegal transfer and other similar activities.

Together with the IAEA's Nuclear Security Department, and owing to the commitments of many donors, **we have established a strong regulatory framework, based on the highest international standards and principles.**

I am glad to share with you that in the **beginning of this year**, the Government of **Montenegro sent to the Parliament for adoption the draft new Law on Ionizing Radiation Protection, Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security**, which will further strengthened the national system for ensuring safety and security of radioactive sources and nuclear material in Montenegro.

This Law builds on the already existing strategic and legal framework, comprised of the National Action Plan for the protection against chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear risks, the Strategy for Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the Strategy for Ionizing Radiation Protection, Radiation Safety and Radioactive Waste Management, as well as the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan.

Our commitments to nuclear security are also evident in our adherence to the key international instruments in this area. Since March 2016, Montenegro has been a party to the **Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material** and last year, we ratified the **International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**. In addition to that, in 2016, we have formally expressed our readiness to implement the **non-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources** and Supplementary Guidelines on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, and, in 2019, also the Supplement Guide on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources.

Establishing the functional and effective legal framework has resulted in significant improvements in the security of many facilities containing nuclear and radioactive material in our country.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the IAEA and the partnering contributors for their comprehensive assistance provided to Montenegro until now.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Having in mind the new technological developments, the associated potential risks and evolving challenges for nuclear security, Montenegro will continue to strongly work on strengthening its national security framework by implementing international instruments, strengthening human resources and fostering cooperation to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials and all potential acts of terrorism.

Allow me to conclude by expressing **the readiness of all relevant authorities and institutions of Montenegro to continue to contribute to the Agency's work in further strengthening the global nuclear security framework.**

I thank you!