

## **STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

### **International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts 10-14 February 2020**

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

It is a great pleasure for me to address the third International Conference on Nuclear Security. Allow me to begin by extending our appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to the newly elected Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi for organizing this important and timely event.

Availing of this opportunity, please also let me express my country's congratulations once more to Mr. Grossi for his appointment as the Director General of the IAEA.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

Turkey aligned with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. On our national capacity, we would like to state the following.

As reflected in the previous Ministerial Declarations, maintaining effective security of all nuclear material is the fundamental responsibility of the states. On the other hand, we also believe that international cooperation towards a sustainable nuclear security architecture capable of addressing credible threats is the single most effective instrument preventing unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear material.

Even though important achievements have been made by the Member States with the invaluable guidance of the IAEA, the evolving global threat environment and increasing level of terrorist activities continue to pose serious challenges. They endanger international peace and security, and hinder sustainable development.

In that framework, we believe that the Conference will be an important forum to review the current status of the international nuclear security efforts in light of emerging trends. It will also offer an opportunity to exchange views, and to understand different priorities on nuclear security.

We also believe that it will be a useful tool to increase awareness, to promote nuclear security culture, as did the first and the second conferences held in 2013 and 2016. It will help maintain the political momentum gained in the field of nuclear security during the past decade.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

Ensuring secure, reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy is at the core of our development strategies. Therefore Turkey embarked upon an ambitious nuclear power program. We are determined to pursue it in order to meet Turkey's growing energy needs in a sustainable manner. Our objective is to be able to meet ten percent of our electricity production through nuclear power.

Bilateral cooperation to improve nuclear security also figures prominently in our intergovernmental cooperation agreements for NPP projects. State-of-the-art technologies and up-to-date international standards, including IAEA Safety Series and Security Guidance will continue to guide our nuclear activities in Turkey.

As a country at the threshold of its own nuclear energy program, Turkey strongly supports the peaceful use of nuclear energy for all states that are in full compliance with their international obligations.

Consequently, Turkey has shown strong commitment to the enhancement of nuclear security, both at home as a national responsibility and also in joining in international efforts for effective nuclear security worldwide. Turkey finalized the process of ratification of the 2005 Amendment and deposited its instrument of ratification to the IAEA on 8 July 2015. We look forward to the 2021 review conference of CPPNM.

Already before the ratification of the Amendment, our relevant national regulation had been revised by taking into account the provisions of CPPNM-A. Furthermore, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (*ICSANT*) is also in force in Turkey. We support international legal instruments for nuclear security, including universalization of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Turkish Penal Code is continually being revised and updated to take into account our international obligations.

Upgrading Turkey's legislative framework to the highest international standards and enhancing its implementation capacity is a continuous process. In its efforts, Turkey constantly enjoys IAEA's valuable assistance. Within this context, we expect to host an IAEA IPPAS mission in the near future. IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, while not legally binding, contributes to the security of radioactive sources. Turkey implements this Code of Conduct as well as the revised supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

The minimization of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) stocks in civilian applications, where technically and economically feasible, is an

important security measure. Accordingly, we repatriated our stocks of HEU research reactor fuel in 2010.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

We also would like to commend and thank the Agency for its contribution to nuclear security. The IAEA's central role in developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance documents and promoting nuclear security culture at national levels have been instrumental. Moreover, the implementation assistance provided to the willing member states has been most useful. In that sense, as member states, we should ensure that the Agency has the necessary political support and financial resources it needs to continue to effectively execute its duties. Keeping this in mind, I would like to reiterate the assurance of Turkey to cooperate with the Agency and lend the necessary support.

At the end of my speech, I would like to underline once more Turkey's support for Director General Grossi. We wish him every success.

Thank you.