

STATEMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

HE Dr Bisera TURKOVIĆ

64th GENERAL CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Vienna, 21 September 2020

*Mr. President,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As the head of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Azzeddine FARHANE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the IAEA, on his election as the President of the *64th General Conference of the IAEA*

I assure you, Mr. President, of the full cooperation of my delegation during this Conference.

I would like to start my address by applauding the leadership of the Director General, Rafael Grossi, for his professionalism and wisdom in managing and guiding the work of the IAEA during this unprecedented time the world is facing.

Let me also express our deepest appreciation to the Agency and its Department for Technical Cooperation for the valuable assistance provided to my country, including during this COVID-19 pandemic.

We support the Agency's effort to contribute to international efforts to strengthen global capacity to detect, prevent and respond to zoonotic diseases through the use of nuclear and nuclear derived techniques through the ZODIAC project.

Mr. President,

The COVID-19 pandemic has confronted the world with an unprecedented situation. As we struggle to overcome the current situation, we must not forget the respect for human rights which is the peak of achievement in modern democratic societies. The right to life being its cornerstone.

Today, in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina that right to life is being threatened. Those living near the Una river are having their lives threatened by the proposed nuclear waste disposal site at Trgovska Gora in the neighboring state of Croatia. The

proposed Trgovska Gora site is less than 1 kilometer from the border of Bosnia.

That potential site for nuclear waste threatens leakage into underground waters that drain into river Una on which the population of northern Bosnia existentially relies on.

The proposed site poses a direct threat to the local communities that number over three hundred thousand people that rely daily on river Una for their livelihood.

Further, the State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety of Bosnia and Herzegovina considers the proposed nuclear waste facility location at Trgovska Gora high risk due to potential earthquakes, landslides and floods. It is a seismic area and such as does not meet international standards for the construction of a nuclear waste facility.

Therefore, we request the assistance of the IAEA to help our neighbour find a safe and suitable site for their nuclear waste disposal. A site that doesn't threaten our life, a site which will not affect our national treasure - the Una river.

Mr. President,

We praise the Agency efforts in establishing safe and secure use of radiation and nuclear technologies and we give our full support to regional cooperation, as well as among the Member States.

Mr. President,

Allow me to thank to Director General and the Agency staff for their diligent work and professionalism in the preparation of this 64th regular session of the General Conference.

I thank you Mr. President.