

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
64th GENERAL CONFERENCE
(21-25 September 2020)**

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the 64th Session of the General Conference, as well as the members of the General Committee on their election. Since this is the first General Conference following his appointment, I also reiterate Turkey's best wishes for Director General Grossi and assure him of our support during his tenure. I express our appreciation for the Director General Grossi and the Agency staff, for their efforts which enable the continuity of the activities of the Agency during the pandemic.

Mr. President,

As a newcomer country in the process of establishing its nuclear power infrastructure and construction, we underline once more Turkey's understanding that, the International Atomic Energy Agency has the central role in international nuclear cooperation. I reiterate my country's commitment to work closely with the Agency to reach the highest standards in nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

I also emphasize that Turkey is ready to actively participate in the upcoming review processes of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, as well as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

and its amendment. I express our gratitude to the Agency for the successful organisation of the International Conference on Nuclear Security last February. The Conference provided a useful opportunity to discuss nuclear security issues.

Turkey will also continue to actively contribute to the NPT review process *nationally and* as a member of Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

Mr. President,

We continue to believe that the Agency's technical cooperation programme is the key tool for the Agency in the attainment of sustainable development goals. We thank the Agency for the close cooperation established with us. We also appreciate the initiation of Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) by the Director General. We believe that, the initiative will respond to the needs of the member states and facilitate their combat with such diseases.

Mr. President,

I have to take this opportunity to underline once again the importance of preserving the JCPoA, which is important for regional security and stability. We believe that the recent visit by the Director General Grossi to Iran on safeguard issues was very timely and contributed to the diplomatic dialogue. We appreciate the efforts deployed by himself and his team.

With respect to the DPRK, Turkey believes the diplomatic negotiations needs a new momentum. Turkey is of the opinion that, DPRK's compliance with UNSC resolutions and its return to the NPT regime will enhance the international security and will serve mostly to its own people.

Thank you Mr. President.