



**Statement
of the Republic of Cyprus to the 65th IAEA General Conference
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by Ambassador Kornelios KORNELIOU

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Dear Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the Sixty-fifth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Cypriot Delegation in carrying out your responsibilities. We also express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Agency, for its dedicated and professional work.

The Republic of Cyprus fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Agency for its achievements and contribution to non-proliferation efforts, strengthening the international nuclear safety and security framework and promoting international cooperation. We would also like to praise the IAEA Director General and his staff for their work in these difficult times during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chairperson,

This Conference, as an important global gathering, provides an opportunity to briefly outline, in our national capacity, important priorities and objectives.

The Republic of Cyprus, as a Contracting Party to all major international Treaties and Conventions relating to nuclear safety and security, assures of its full commitment to their implementation.

Cyprus highly values the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA in enhancing the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and appreciates its role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Republic of Cyprus has benefited from various projects funded by the Technical Cooperation Fund in terms of knowledge transfer and acquisition of expertise. Over the years, the Republic of Cyprus has co-organised a number of IAEA events in the country and will continue to do so.

Cyprus currently has 2 National Projects for the 2020 to 2023 programme cycles and intends to continue with newer projects in future cycles.

Following the finalisation of our Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan Cyprus has started implementing a series of activities under the associated Implementation Plan for the years 2019-2022.

During the previous year Cyprus, with significant IAEA assistance, was able to remove several high activity legacy sources from the country. For this we are grateful to the IAEA and especially to the members of its staff directly involved in that operation.

The IAEA has also provided Cyprus with experts and training on safety and security who continuously support our efforts for the cradle to grave management of sealed radioactive sources and emergency preparedness and response.

During the past year, the Regulatory Authority of Cyprus, with the support of the IAEA, organised exercises and meetings for stakeholders participating in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. The Regulatory Authority also participated in several international exercises and I wish to express our appreciation to the Incident and Emergency Centre of the IAEA for their continuous support and assistance.

The Republic of Cyprus commits itself to maintaining and further strengthening radiation safety and security, as well as emergency preparedness and response.

Chairperson,

The Republic of Cyprus does not operate any nuclear power or research reactors or any other nuclear installations and its energy plans for the foreseeable future do not

include nuclear energy. Nevertheless, we recognise the importance of the Nuclear Safety and Security Standards of the IAEA in ensuring nuclear safety and security worldwide. The Republic of Cyprus supports all measures and initiatives that strengthen nuclear safety and security both at national and at international level. Recognising the work done by the Agency and its Member States on nuclear safety and security, we urge all IAEA Member States to further ensure the highest levels of safety and security of nuclear facilities, so as to protect their own country, their neighbouring countries and the rest of the world.

International and, especially, regional cooperation is of the utmost importance for nuclear safety and security considering the transboundary nature of the impact of any nuclear event. In this context transparency, information to the public and consultation with all neighbouring countries likely to be affected in case of a release of radioactivity from nuclear installations and their related activities is vital, from the stage of design and throughout the whole lifecycle of nuclear facilities.

We believe that no Member State should underestimate the risks to nuclear security, since the potential for a terrorist attack, natural disasters (i.e. earthquake), loss of control or cyber-attack can be significant. In this context, Cyprus, once again, calls on its neighbouring, as well as all, Member States, to cooperate regionally and exchange relevant information in a responsible and timely manner.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate our appreciation of the work undertaken by the Secretariat and the Director General, and to underscore our confidence and support to the IAEA's efforts towards peace and development.

Thank you, Chairperson.