

STATEMENT

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

delivered by Mr. Michał Kurtyka

Minister of Climate and Environment

to the 65th General Conference

of International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, 20-24 September 2021

The President,

On behalf of the Polish delegation, I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of your important and difficult task as President of the sixty fifth session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I assure you of the full support and co-operation from the side of Polish delegation in the fulfillment of your responsibilities. The Polish delegation fully shares the comments made by the distinguished representative of Slovenia on behalf of Member States of the European Union.

The President, Mr. Director General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nuclear power is a very important part of the Polish energy sector transformation towards meeting the Paris agreement objectives and reaching climate neutrality. Since the last General Conference, Polish Council of Ministers approved two crucial documents. The most important - “Poland’s Energy Policy until 2040” presents a vision of the reconstruction and transformation of the whole energy sector. This strategy reaffirmed the plans for 6-9 GW of nuclear power capacity to be put into operation by 2043, to represent around 15% of the future generation capacity in the national system. At the same time, the recently updated Polish Nuclear Power Program provides a roadmap for implementation of those ambitious but feasible plans.

The President, distinguished Delegates,

Poland continues to improve its nuclear safety and security framework. Implementing the Polish nuclear power program, we fully understand the priority to assure our regulatory readiness to oversee safety and security of new nuclear

build. Taking this into account, Poland would like to invite the Integrated Regulatory Review Service for the second time since the successful completion of the first IRRS Mission in 2013 and its follow-up in 2017. We are convinced that IRRS peer-review will contribute to our efforts in continuous improvement of nuclear safety and regulatory framework for Poland. As another major step in achieving aforementioned objective, we developed Policy and strategy for nuclear safety and radiological protection, which is expected to be approved by the Government this year. The Strategy follows IAEA safety standards and formulates single and clear national document, expressing fundamental safety principles and directions for further strengthening of nuclear safety and radiological protection.

We recognize the great value of Agency Technical Cooperation Program. I would like to underline that participation in TC projects is a visible support for development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy in Poland.

The President, distinguished Delegates,

Poland is engaged in the current Review Cycle of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. At the upcoming NPT Review Conference, postponed to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Poland will chair the Main Committee II, which is crucial for the IAEA as the pillar II of the NPT. We attach an utmost importance to the successful outcome of the Tenth NPT Review Conference.

There is no question that the role of the IAEA in the sphere of non-proliferation is indispensable and cannot be underestimated and replaced. The verification activity of the Agency is crucial for the whole non-proliferation system and the NPT in particular. We commend the IAEA for its impartial efforts to monitor and verify nuclear material and activities in Iran in light of United Nations Security

Council resolution 2231. We reiterate our appreciation for the continued efforts of the IAEA to monitor the DPRK nuclear activities by using accessible technologies before the DPRK returns to cooperation with the Agency in the full implementation of its safeguards agreement.

The President, distinguished Delegates,

Poland considers nuclear power as a vital and necessary part of the future low-carbon global energy mix. That was clearly confirmed by many quality studies and reports, notably from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Energy Agency and many others reputable organizations.

In this light we welcome the actions undertaken by the IAEA as regards enhancing the discussion on nuclear power in the light of the upcoming COP26. We look forward for continuation of such efforts.

The President, distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Polish Government, I am pleased to express firm and continuous support of our country for the International Atomic Energy Agency activities.

At the same time, we would like to convey our appreciation to Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the Agency, for his impressive work, including launching new initiatives like ZODIAC or Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program, which were supported financially by Poland.

Let me express Poland's full support for continuation of his chairmanship in the incoming years.

Thank you for your attention,