

H.E. Fatih DÖNMEZ
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
Republic of Turkey
IAEA 65th Regular Session of the General Conference

Dear Mr. President,
Distinguished Participants,

I am very pleased to address all of you on the occasion of the sixty-fifth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Despite challenges emanating from the COVID pandemic, I am confident that the General Conference will be completed with success.

I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the General Conference, as well as the members of the General Committee on their election. I also express our appreciation for the Director General Grossi and the Agency staff, for their intense efforts which enable the continuity of activities during the pandemic.

Dear Mr. President,

Implementing sustainable energy policies for global economic and social development has turned out to be one of the priorities of twenty first century. Nuclear energy plays an integral role in low-carbon energy transitions. In this regard, nuclear energy will be an important near future component of Turkey's National Energy and Mining Policy.

Turkey is a newcomer country making concrete efforts to establish its nuclear energy infrastructure. Currently simultaneous construction of 3 units are progressing at Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant and the fourth unit received limited work permit in 2021.

I would also like to emphasize Turkey's dedication to work closely with the Agency to support the highest standards in nuclear safety, security and safeguards to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

In this regard, Turkey is looking forward to and ready to actively engage 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. Likewise, Turkey will continue to contribute to the upcoming tenth Non-Proliferation Treaty Review.

With this regard, I reiterate my country's understanding that the Agency has the central role in international nuclear cooperation. We thus acknowledge that the requesting the Agency's critical peer reviews and advisory services will ensure responsible start-up of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant in a timely manner.

Furthermore, Turkey would like to reaffirm its strong support for the technical cooperation activities of the Agency and we support the efforts in further addressing the new challenges including the emergence of new zoonotic diseases, severe impacts of climate change and plastic pollution.

Dear Mr. President,

The Agency's safeguards system is under increasing pressure due to rapidly developing technologies, the increased use of nuclear applications and nuclear power production around the world. Turkey acknowledges the importance of keeping in pace with these developments and adapting the safeguards system to changing conditions and requirements. With this understanding, in 2020, Turkey continued its collaboration with the Agency and took part among the pilot states of the COMPASS Project.

Distinguished Participants,

Finally, I have to take this opportunity to underline the importance of preserving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Turkey has been and will always be a supporter of a diplomatic solution. We hope the Vienna negotiations will resume soon.

Before concluding, I would like to underline once again Turkey's determination to continue closely cooperate with the Agency and I wish best success to the General Conference.

Thank you.