

**Statement
of the Republic of Cyprus to the 66th IAEA General Conference
Vienna, Austria, 27 September 2022
by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Cyprus**

Dear Chairperson,

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

Dear Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me first note that the Republic of Cyprus fully aligns itself with the EU Statement. I would also like to 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. I would also like to praise the IAEA Director General and his staff for their work in such difficult times.

Dear Chairperson,

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

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 new 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.

The IAEA, during the past 12 months, has provided Cyprus with experts who build up our capacity for the cradle to grave management of sealed radioactive sources. The IAEA has also provided us with equipment for the management of radioactive sources and emergency preparedness and response.

During the past year, the Regulatory Authority of Cyprus, with the support of the IAEA, organised a Regional meeting on Occupational Exposure. The Regulatory Authority also participated in several meetings, conferences and international exercises and, in conjunction with the IAEA, is hosting a Mediterranean region exercise in November.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the introduction of specific legislation on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and Security in the country. The Republic of Cyprus commits itself to maintaining and further strengthening radiation safety and security, as well as emergency preparedness and response.

Dear 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 an act of war, a terrorist attack, loss of control or cyber-attack can be significant. In this context, Cyprus, again, calls on its neighbouring, as well as all Member States, to cooperate and exchange relevant information.

Concluding, I wish to again express our appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat and the Director General, and to deliver our confidence and support in the IAEA's efforts towards peace and development.

Thank you, Dear Chairperson.