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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mister President,

Let me start by congratulating you, Mister President, on your election and by thanking the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their important and excellent work over the past year.

This year's General Conference is taking place in an extremely challenging international environment marked by conflicts and crises as well as their multi-faceted and far-reaching consequences, including for energy security.

Above all, we are meeting against the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Liechtenstein strongly condemns the Russian aggression against Ukraine which constitutes a blatant violation of the foundational principles of the UN Charter and the international order founded upon it.

In addition to the inexpressible human suffering and destruction of civil infrastructure, Russia's actions also threaten the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear facilities. These actions have impeded the IAEA from fully and safely conducting safeguards verification activities in Ukraine. We share the deep concerns that each of the seven indispensable pillars outlined by the IAEA Director General has been compromised as a result of the Russian aggression. The attacks at and near Ukraine's nuclear facilities have significantly increased the risk of a nuclear incident or accident, with potentially catastrophic consequences for human health and the environment.

Liechtenstein therefore expresses its full support for the work of the IAEA under the leadership of Director General Grossi to assist Ukraine in ensuring nuclear safety and security, and to maintain IAEA safeguards on all nuclear materials and activities. In particular, we would like to stress the Agency's significant efforts in connection with the situation at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.

Mister President,

The Agency's role regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy is of crucial importance. The verification and monitoring in Iran and the application of safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are just two examples we would like to highlight.

In this context, we would also like to take this opportunity to emphasize that full and timely cooperation with the Agency by all Member States is essential to uphold the integrity and effectiveness of the global safeguards and non-proliferation regime.

Mister President,

The recent developments have posed serious challenges to the rules-based international order. Liechtenstein deems it of utmost importance to ensure that international organizations, including the IAEA, remain operational and responsive and that multilateralism retains its core function in addressing these challenges.

This includes ensuring the smooth functioning of the IAEA's policy-making bodies, which we see as our joint responsibility. During the last year, Liechtenstein has contributed to this goal as Co-Chair of the Western European Group (WEG), together with Germany. We will remain committed in this respect.

I thank you.