



**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UN, THE OSCE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS in VIENNA**

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MONTENEGRO STATEMENT

by

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Development**

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the very beginning, allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your appointment as the President of the 66th General Conference of the IAEA. Let me assure you of the full support of our delegation to you during this week's proceedings and beyond.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU. I would like to, nonetheless, address you in my national capacity and highlight some issues of particular importance to my country.

Mr. President,

In the substantially compromised global security regime, fueled by the unjustified and unprovoked act of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the role and importance of the IAEA as an impartial, independent and objective actor is more important than ever.

The situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is of great concern to us. We call on Russia to implement, without delay, the March and September resolutions of the Board of Governors, and to immediately cease all actions against, and at NPP Zaporizhzhia. Montenegro fully supports the work of the IAEA in assisting Ukraine to ensure nuclear safety and security, and to maintain the IAEA safeguards on all nuclear materials and

activities in all nuclear facilities within the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine. We support the IAEA Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia (ISAMZ) and the initiative of the Director General to establish a nuclear safety and security protection zone around the NPP.

With unprecedented and raising number of nuclear related crisis we are facing today, allow me to commend the leadership of the Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and the dedicated and tireless efforts of the Secretariat of the IAEA in maintaining international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Montenegro is a non-nuclear state, but we are a vigorous supporter of peaceful use of nuclear energy, and furthering of the application of nuclear science and technology. The Agency's engagement in this domain, and the assistance offered to its member states has been of paramount significance.

The humane mission of the IAEA, in service of the progress of all mankind, was clearly demonstrated in the rapid response of the Agency to the COVID-19 pandemics, and is well reflected in projects such as ZODIAC and NUTEC, as well as in the new „The Rays of Hope“ initiative. As a proud member of the Friends of ReNuAL+ and Renewal2 projects, Montenegro strongly supports these and other endeavors of the Agency and is firmly committed to giving its utmost contribution to their successful implementation.

Montenegro substantively benefited from the fruitful and ongoing cooperation with the IAEA, through comprehensive and wide-ranging technical assistance programmes, including in the fields of nuclear safety and security, human and animal health, biotechnology, water, research and environmental protection of the Adriatic Sea. I am proud that we will extend and further our cooperation this week with the signing of the new Country Programme Framework for Cooperation between Montenegro and the IAEA, for the period 2022-2027.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat of the IAEA for its support for the regional project of the establishment of the International Institute for Sustainable Technologies in South East Europe, and especially the capacity building assistance we have received. This project, which bears huge benefits for our Region in terms of help and support to the people with malignant diseases, is in fact, one of best examples of the promotion of collaboration between science, technology and industry in the spirit *Science for Peace and Development*.

Distinguished colleagues,

Montenegro is devotedly committed to the fortifying, full implementation and universalization of the multilateral regime for disarmament and non-proliferation, and to that extent, the promotion of the universalization and full implementation of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Montenegro continues to be a responsible and reliable partner in efforts to achieve sustainable peace and security and guided by that postulate, we actively participated in the 10th Review Conference of the NPT, representing the very foundation of the global non-proliferation regime.

In the deteriorating global security environment, we believe it is of paramount importance to reaffirm international norms related to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, considering the potentially catastrophic consequences of nuclear incidents.

Allow me to remind that Montenegro is a state party to all major IAEA conventions and other relevant international instruments, striving to meet the highest of standards when it comes to nuclear safety and security. Additionally, we have also invested significant efforts in the domain of protection against harmful effects of ionizing radiation and radioactive waste management. We are constantly working on upgrading our capacities in this area, determined to prevent any illegal use or mismanagement of radioactive materials and related knowledge and technologies.

Mr. President,

I would like to close my statement by reaffirming the resolute dedication of the Government of Montenegro to continue to actively contribute to the Agency's work, as well as to the implementation of the outcome results of this Conference.

I thank you.