



## **International Atomic Energy Agency**

66th General Conference

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Statement by

H.E. Luca Beccari

Minister for Foreign Affairs

of the Republic of San Marino

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election as President of the General Conference.

I assure you of my Country's full support and cooperation during this year.

I am also pleased to note that today coincides with the International Day of the total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Since last year, we have witnessed several outbreaks: in fact, not only is Covid still present on the whole planet, but monkey pox was also declared as a public health emergency of international concern and, finally, West Nile fever has reappeared in different areas of the world.

These emergencies among others make our Organization and its work and assistance ever more relevant.

The acute and fragile situation in Ukraine nuclear plants represents the greatest concern today.

San Marino condemns the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is a fundamental principle enshrined in international law.

We hope that peace be restored as soon as possible through dialogue and diplomatic efforts.

I commend Director General Grossi, and all his staff, for the immediate, effective and concrete approach to all these emergencies. I know we are in good and capable hands and I trust the work of this and other international organizations that operate in these fields.

I commend the Agency for its work in increasing nuclear safety and security throughout the world, and for continuing to foster nuclear peaceful applications in cancer research, human and animal health, agriculture and tackle climate change and water quality.

We highly appreciate the activities carried out in the Seibersdorf Laboratories, including the ZODIAC program. IAEA scientists cooperate around the world to provide all of us with better preparedness for future challenges.

This year again, we are ready to pledge a symbolic contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund, which has proven to be a valid support to us all.

We continue to believe that the system of safeguards is fundamental for international security and we call on all Countries to allow the Agency to perform its inspections and to support all Member States in the observance of their agreements.

We reiterate our concern about the lack of willingness to cooperate of a number of Countries and we appeal to them to comply with their commitments.

We deeply regret the fact that we were not able to reach an agreement on the joint final declaration at the end of the works of the NPT Review Conference last month. These texts are very important in order to precede together toward the reduction of nuclear weapons.

San Marino is a State party to the TPNW and this year we participated in the first meeting of State parties. We are convinced that together with the NPT this Treaty could bring us closer to the final elimination of nuclear weapons and the threat of use of nuclear weapons, a threat that we hoped would never present itself again.

Mr. President,

San Marino continues to support education, cooperation, dialogue, negotiation and trust building activities in order to achieve peace and a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you for your attention.