



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STATEMENT

**66th GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

AMBASSADOR

Prof. ŽARKO OBRADOVIĆ, PhD

**HEAD OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE
OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

Vienna, 26 - 30 September 2022

Mr President,
Distinguished Director-General,
Your Excellencies,
Respected Delegates,

Let me start my address on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia in yet uncommon circumstances of the 66th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency caused by COVID-19 pandemic, which unfortunately still affects our functioning. I would like to carry on by conveying my congratulations on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia to you Mister President and the other members of the Secretariat on your election to this esteemed position, and by expressing my hopes for successful achievement of all the aims you set forth. I also pledge full and indisputable support and cooperation of the Republic of Serbia regarding the Agency's work.

Mister President,

First of all, on behalf of the Republic of Serbia, I would like to express my full appreciation of the assistance and support my country has received from the IAEA so far, especially during the challenges faced during the pandemic of COVID-19 virus and its consequences. Besides the IAEA donation to the Republic of Serbia in

2020, amounting to the total of 227,286,400 euros in the form of equipment for three specialized COVID-19 RT-PCR units, intended for the institutions in the Republic of Serbia responsible for COVID-19 testing in humans, in 2021, the IAEA donated the equipment for the fourth specialized COVID-19 RT-PCR unit, the value of which amounts to 74,463.93 euros. Owing to these donations, the Republic of Serbia's capacities in timely detection of the infection carriers were substantially expanded, which, consequently, constrained further COVID-19 escalation in human population. By providing similar assistance to additional more than 100 countries worldwide, the IAEA once more confirmed its continuous commitment to achieving its goals aiming at the benefit of the entire human kind. The Republic of Serbia is convinced that solely by such joint and allied approach, the global problems resulting from COVID-19 pandemic can be efficiently and permanently overcome, and in view of that, the Republic of Serbia is ready, commensurate with its capacities, to provide its full contribution.

The Republic of Serbia remains fully and unambiguously dedicated to the IAEA's fundamental principles and goals towards safe and secure peaceful use of nuclear energy, as well as the international peace, security and development in general. Accordingly, the Republic of Serbia will continue to act as a constructive partner in all IAEA's programmes and continuing efforts in reinforcing the nuclear safeguards, in line with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the principles

of the universal reinforcement of non-proliferation regime. It is clear from the aforementioned that the Republic of Serbia deems any strives against nuclear terrorism as its priority. Hence, I would like to guarantee that the Republic of Serbia will steadfastly maintain its collaboration with the international community in reinforcing the effective methods and techniques serving to deter illegal trade in nuclear material and other radiation sources especially through the regime of their proper physical protection and retrieval of orphan sources under regulatory control.

Mister President,

The Republic of Serbia is committed to steadily develop its legislative and regulatory framework in the field of radiation and nuclear safety and security, in line with the international standards and the European Union *acquis*. As a result, the Republic of Serbia will continue to support the IAEA's vigorous attempts at enhancing the international standards and relevant international legal documents.

Mister President,

The prime concerns of my country, now more than ever, are the protection of health of the public, the environmental protection and assurance that the nuclear energy is used solely for peaceful purposes and the achievement of global peace, prosperity and well-being of the future generations. The Republic of Serbia will continue to

attend to its obligations arising from the relevant international conventions, and particularly to apply the Code of Conduct regarding the safety and security of radiation sources, as legally non-binding instrument, as well as the Guidelines regarding the import and export of radioactive sources, primarily owing to the importance of these IAEA documents for the enhancement of the safety and security of radiation sources in general.

Mister President,

I also wish to emphasize the significance the Republic of Serbia attaches to the IAEA's technical assistance that proved to be of great relevance especially during the unprecedented circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

As regards the above said, I would like to point out that the Republic of Serbia greatly appreciates and expresses its utmost gratitude to the IAEA on the possibility to conduct currently several national, regional and interregional projects. Despite challenging circumstances, there are perceivable and continuous efforts on realizing these projects, which will lead to their successful completion in the end.

Mister president,

Before I conclude my speech, I would also like to underline the fact that the Republic of Serbia fully supports the IAEA Annual Report for 2021, and the programmes and the budget for 2022 as well.

Mister President, distinguished delegates,

In conclusion, allow me to affirm, once again, the commitment of the Republic of Serbia to the IAEA's and the Secretariat's efforts, and to the IAEA's fundamental principles and goals towards attaining safe and secure use of nuclear energy, and thus, assure you of our adherence to the course of peaceful use of nuclear energy for the sake of each individual and the entire society as well.