



**SLOVAKIA**

**National Statement  
The 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference**

Delivered by the Head of Delegation  
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Chairperson  
Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. President,

1. Let me first congratulate you on your election as the President of this session of the IAEA General Conference. You may rest assured of my delegation's full support in discharging your responsible duties.
2. Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity that are of particular importance to Slovakia.
3. Slovakia reaffirms its full solidarity with Ukraine and commends the Ukrainian people for their courage in defending their country against the unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation, which my country condemns in the strongest possible terms. The Russian Federation's invasion of a sovereign country is a gross violation of international law, the UN Charter, and it severely undermines European and international security. We also condemn Belarus for its involvement. Slovakia fully supports and recognizes independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We strongly support the Agency's work in Ukraine, including the Director General's proposal to establish a Nuclear Safety and Security Protection Zone around the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.
4. Russia's actions have endangered the safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine. As a result of Russian aggression, all seven indispensable pillars outlined by the IAEA Director General, have been compromised. We urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease all actions against, and at, the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant and any other nuclear facility in Ukraine and allow the competent Ukrainian authorities to regain full control of them.

Mr. President,

5. While we regret that the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the parties to the NPT failed to achieve consensus on the text of the final document, Slovakia remains strongly committed to the NPT as cornerstone of global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture and an irreplaceable pillar of international peace and security. In spite of the unsuccessful outcome of the

last Review Conference, legally binding obligations enshrined in the Treaty and commitments from the past Review Conferences remain valid.

6. The IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental component in this regard, with a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol constituting the current verification standard under Article III of the NPT. We echo our unwavering support to the IAEA in carrying out measures for independent verification of nuclear material and nuclear-related activities.
7. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements are legally binding instruments. We therefore call on Iran and Syria to engage constructively with the IAEA and clarify and resolve all outstanding safeguards issues.
8. With regard to the implementation of safeguards in the context of naval nuclear propulsion under AUKUS we express satisfaction with the Agency's current approach. We welcome the AUKUS parties' engagement with the IAEA and encourage them to continue with this transparent approach.

### **Nuclear Power, Energy and Climate Change**

Mr. President,

9. We live in challenging geopolitical times. The Russian's illegal war in Ukraine has not only put safety and security of nuclear facilities in serious jeopardy, but has also led to a significant destabilization of global security with serious socio-economic implications; all while the world is trying to recover from exacerbating post-pandemic inflation. Against this background, nuclear energy has proven, once again, its key and essential role in our national energy security, as well as an important tool in advancing our decarbonization and climate targets and reaching net zero. Safe and secure nuclear power will therefore remain a strategic priority and one of the main pillars of Slovak Energy Policy.
10. Important milestones have been reached in the Slovak nuclear power programme. With the authorization for commissioning of unit 3 of the Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant issued at the end of August, the operator has officially started the commissioning processes with the unit expected to become fully operational early next year. Power generation from Mochovce 3 will cover

about 13% of Slovakia's total electricity consumption, increasing the total share of nuclear energy in the electricity mix up to 65%. Slovakia will become self-sufficient in supplying the country with electricity.

### **Nuclear Safety, Security and Non-proliferation**

Mr. President,

11. Utilization of nuclear energy comes hand-in-hand with a robust and rigorous application of nuclear safety and security standards that any country developing or using nuclear energy, or radiation technology, should strictly adhere to. We commend the IAEA for its role and efforts in promoting strong and sustainable global nuclear safety and security framework, including through the development of Safety Standards and Security Guidance. Slovakia reiterates its commitment to these principles and strives for their constant improvement as a cornerstone of our ambitions in the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. To that end, we continuously engage in strengthening our domestic nuclear safety and radiation protection infrastructure, including through regularly inviting and hosting the IAEA's peer review and advisory services. Earlier this year, Slovakia has successfully hosted the ORPAS mission to review the occupational radiation protection arrangements. Just over a week ago, the IRRS mission to Slovakia concluded its assessment of our national governmental, legal and regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety, affirming my country's commitment to continuous improvement. This mission will be followed by the ARTEMIS mission in a back-to-back format scheduled to take place in February 2023.
12. With regard to safety and security of nuclear installations during the past year, necessary steps were implemented at the national level to ensure that nuclear safety of nuclear installations is not affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Nuclear Applications, Technology & Technical Cooperation**

13. Slovakia firmly supports the IAEA's mandate in advancing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in line with the "*Atoms for Peace and Development*" mission. We continue to benefit from the assistance provided under the IAEA's

Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme and attach great relevance of this mechanism, in particular in the area of capacity building and knowledge sharing as well as in contributing to our socio-economic priorities and the fulfilment of SDGs. We therefore reiterate our call for a demand-driven efficient and non-discriminatory and needs-based programme.

14. The IAEA's Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf play an essential role in delivering nuclear technical assistance to Member States in wide array of areas such as the environment, human health and climate change. Slovakia is proud to be among the countries that have provided an extrabudgetary contribution enabling modernization and refurbishment of the laboratories under the ReNuAI 2 project.
15. We also welcome the IAEA Director General's extrabudgetary initiatives covering many areas where nuclear technologies add value, including the Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, and the NUTEC Plastics of which recycling with irradiation is of particular interest to my delegation. Another key initiative that we welcome and will follow closely is the newly established Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative aimed to support the safe and secure deployment of advanced nuclear reactors, including the SMRs, to maximize their contribution to reach net zero by 2050. We applaud the Agency for taking a proactive approach this regard.

Mr. President, to conclude,

16. Slovakia wishes to underline its continuous and full support to the Agency in efficiently and effectively delivering its statutory tasks. We also welcome the integration of a gender perspective and continue to advocate for gender mainstreaming across all of the Agency's activities.

I thank you.