



**G R E E C E**

**IAEA General Conference**

**25-29 September 2023**

**Statement by H.E. Mrs Catherine Koika, Ambassador-Resident  
Representative of Greece to the IAEA**

**Madam President,**

**allow me, first, to congratulate you on your election and reassure you of our full confidence in your ability to ensure the success of this demanding General Conference.**

**I also wish to extend our congratulations to Director General Grossi on his reappointment. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate closely with him throughout his second term. Greece highly values the International Atomic Energy Agency's technical expertise, independence and impartiality in fulfilling its mandate and is dedicated to maintaining a strong partnership and cooperation with it.**

**Greece aligns itself with the statement delivered by Spain on behalf of the European Union and in my national capacity I would like to highlight some additional points.**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Russia's invasion in Ukraine, constitutes a stark violation of the core principles of the UN Charter and a fundamental challenge of the multilateral system as a whole. International law and the inviolability of borders are the cornerstone of our world order. Greece reiterates its strong condemnation of Russia's illegal war of aggression. Russia's actions not only undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of**

**Ukraine but also pose a significant risk to nuclear safety and security in the region, especially through Russia's illegal seizure of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant which violates the very principles of the IAEA Statute.**

**We continue to support Ukraine and the Director General and the Agency's dedicated staff deployed in the IAEA Support and Assistance missions working under difficult circumstances towards the prevention of a possible nuclear accident with immense consequences for the whole region. We express our concerns regarding the compromise of the seven indispensable pillars in ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). Russia has to respect the five principles established by the Director General and allow the IAEA to comprehensively assess the situation at the ZNPP without any hindrances.**

**We add our voice to the numerous previous speakers who urged Russia to withdraw its forces from Ukraine, including the ZNPP, and fully respect its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Nuclear safety or security incidents recognize no boundaries and if occurred can have far-reaching implications on a regional or even global level. As it is aptly said: "A nuclear accident anywhere, is a nuclear accident everywhere". That is why it is crucial for every country to prioritize and adhere to the highest standards of safety and security in the nuclear industry, for the sake of mutual protection.**

**Greece, being a party to all main international Conventions in the field of nuclear safety, strongly believes that transparency constitutes an essential component on building public confidence about the safety of nuclear energy.**

**We fully support the Agency's activities to improve nuclear safety worldwide and we are convinced that Member States benefit from actively utilizing the Agency's expertise through peer review services, technical advisory missions and follow-up missions. We encourage member states to publish the results of these peer review missions in the interest of transparency and improvement of global nuclear safety. We also encourage the Agency to carefully consider Member State feedback, with a view to improving the quality and responsiveness of its activities, as part of conducting future missions.**

**The Eighth and Ninth Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety was an important opportunity for Contracting Parties to come together to discuss current global nuclear safety issues and participate in the peer review process. Greece thanks the President and the Secretariat for their efforts at the Review Meeting.**

**Greece also stresses the need for continuous efforts on strengthening global nuclear security and looks forward to participating in the ICONS (International Conference on Nuclear Security) in May 2024.**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**The IAEA's multilateral, impartial, qualified and effective system of safeguards remains one of the core components of the NPT and a fundamental insurance for our security.**

**In this regard, we regret that the First Preparatory Committee for the 11<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference concluded without a factual report. The Agency**

**and Member States must continue the full and robust implementation of nuclear safeguards including the application of the Additional Protocol, which is essential in building confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear activities.**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Iran's escalating nuclear trajectory and systematic breaches of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) limits are of deep concern. It is regrettable that Iran has not taken the necessary steps to return to its nuclear-related commitments under JCPOA, increasing proliferation risks in the region.**

**We call on Iran to work with the Agency in earnest and in a sustained way towards the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the March 2023 Joint Statement and to fully cooperate with the IAEA to resolve all pending safeguards issues, in accordance with its legal obligations under its NPT Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. We also call on Iran to reverse course on the de-designation of key inspectors, which affects severely the Agency's ability to conduct effectively its verification activities in Iran.**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Greece accords paramount importance to the IAEA for its central role in promoting with professionalism and commitment the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the development and prosperity of humankind through the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme, while addressing global challenges, such as climate change.**

**In this regard, we welcome this year's Scientific Forum on "Nuclear Innovations for Net Zero".**

**We also welcome the significant strides that have been made on several of the Agency's flagship initiatives over the past year, including Rays of Hope, NUTEC Plastics and ZODIAC, and look forward to the most recent initiative as announced by Director General Grossi, "Atoms for Food".**

**Greece considers the NUTEC Plastics initiative as a very important tool in the fight against pervasive global plastic pollution, the maritime aspect of which, is of particular concern to countries like Greece. The protection and preservation of the marine environment constitutes a high priority for our country, hence Greece will host the 9<sup>th</sup> International "Our Ocean Conference" in 2024.**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**On a national basis, Greece is taking specific measures as regards nuclear knowledge management. Such measures include the active participation of Greek scientists and institutions in scientific regional and interregional projects of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation programme. Further to that, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission took the initiative to establish a scholarship system for postgraduate studies in nuclear-related subjects.**

**The Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE), which is also IAEA's Regional European Training Center, in close cooperation with the Agency, organized in Athens, during the last year, numerous schools and workshops and assisted, via its well qualified experts, other member states in drafting radiation safety regulations and establishing national policies and strategies for Education and Training in Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety.**

**To conclude Madam President,**

**Greece would like to reiterate its unrelenting support for the Agency's central role in ensuring the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.**

**We wish You and the Conference every success.**

**Thank you for your attention.**