

**Statement**

**by Mr. Aziz Nazar, Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies of  
the Republic of Tajikistan at the 67th session of the IAEA General  
Conference**

**Madam President,  
Distinguished Director-General Grossi,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to congratulate the President and Vice-Presidents of the Conference on their election and wish them success in their work. I also sincerely congratulate Director General Grossi on his reappointment.

We are grateful to the Director General and the IAEA staff for their professional and valuable work in promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy and technologies, and ensuring non-proliferation.

Our delegation also warmly welcomes the membership of Cabo Verde and the Gambia in the IAEA.

**Madam President,**

Republic of Tajikistan joined the IAEA in 2001 and since then has established a good level of cooperation with the organization.

We express our deepest appreciation to the IAEA for their unwavering support in establishing and enhancing our oncology centers, which has brought a beacon of hope to countless patients and has uplifted the standards of cancer care in Tajikistan. The invaluable expertise and resources provided by the IAEA have been instrumental in the progressive transformation of our oncological facilities, allowing our medical professionals to deliver world-class treatment to our citizens. We also welcome the new Rays of Hope initiative to help Member States fight cancer.

Tajikistan is profoundly grateful to the IAEA for its timely and effective assistance in strengthening our capabilities to monitor and control zoonotic diseases through its ZODIAC Program. This collaboration not only safeguards our public health but also buttresses our agricultural and economic stability. Through the IAEA committed partnership, we have advanced our understanding and management of zoonotic diseases in established Zodiac National Laboratory (ZNL), ensuring a safer environment for both our people and our livestock.

The support from the IAEA in study for mitigation of glacier-related risks has been indispensable. Their expertise has empowered us with knowledge and tools to better understand and respond to the challenges posed by glacier retreat and its ramifications on our water resources. We consider the IAEA's involvement in this regard as worthy contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the 2025 International Year of Glaciers Preservation initiated by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, and adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution in December last year.

We are interested in and fully support the activities of the Agency and are determined to make our maximum contribution to their successful implementation.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

One of the most important directions of our cooperation is resolving the legacy of uranium mining and production in Tajikistan that has an impact on the whole Central Asian region.

Resolving the legacy of uranium mining and production in Central Asia is an important task of growing urgency. Without action, the release of radioactive and toxic waste into rivers in densely populated areas is inevitable. As radioactive pollution knows no borders it is imperative that the affected countries and the international community join forces and act before irreversible damage occurs.

**According to the National Concept, all radiation hazardous objects in the city of Istiqlol and the Degmai tailings dump have priority for the immediate adoption of remediation measures due to their negative impact on public health and the state of the environment, as well as the high risk of emergency situations.**

**It is gratifying that these sites are included in the Strategic Master Plan for Uranium Legacy Sites, prepared under the leadership of the IAEA.**

We have already come a long way to begin and successfully complete the planned work. I am confident that we can completely solve this problem. Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to ask the contributing countries and the international community to support our desire to make the region clean, ensure the well-being of the population and the environmental safety of the region and the world as a whole.

**Madam President,**

Given the IAEA's central role in ensuring nuclear safety and security worldwide, Tajikistan undertaking effective efforts to adhere to international safety standards, its commitments to ratified agreements and improves its domestic nuclear infrastructure. Tajikistan reaffirms its commitment to non-

proliferation treaties and agreements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Our country attaches great importance to ensuring security of nuclear and radioactive materials. Benefitting from international cooperation, Tajikistan is taking active measures to strengthen export and border control which, among others, aims at prevention of smuggling and illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials, improving security of facilities using nuclear and radioactive materials and ensuring physical protection of such materials during transportation. As a responsible member of the international community, Tajikistan is acutely aware that our internal challenges have ripple effects far beyond our borders. In the last 5 years, 13 Border Crossing Points and 2 International Airports are fully equipped with Radiation Portal Monitors. Physical protection systems installed in all sites using Category 1, 2 and 3 sources.

In recognizing the complexities of the modern world and the imperative of staying ahead in scientific advancements, our government has proudly championed the construction of the Central Asian region's most comprehensive CBRN Forensics Center, encompassing 16 specialized laboratories. This initiative marks a significant stride in our nation's journey toward excellence in scientific research and regional collaboration.

### **Excellencies,**

The issue of Member States not belonging to any geographic area has been overlooked from the early days since the IAEA establishment, despite a clear provision of the Agency Statute to ensure the sovereign equality of all its members.

We believe that each member state should have equal opportunities to participate in all Agency decision-making processes, to be elected to the Board of Governors, Bureau of the General Conference and make contribution to the work of the Agency.

We call upon all Member States and the IAEA Secretariat to contribute in resolving this problem and taking immediate actions to restore the implementation of fundamental principles of the UN Charter and IAEA Statute.

**I thank you.**