

Mr. President,

It is my exceptional honour and pleasure to address at this important event to all delegations member states of the IAEA and esteemed representatives of international organizations on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of this international system established aiming at use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and as such fulfills, with due diligence, all its responsibilities deriving from international instruments related to safe and secure use of ionizing radiation sources. Our goal is clear – to provide our modest but significant contribution in that regard.

In addition to the aforementioned we can add that Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1995, became the IAEA member state and accepted the most important international conventions whose depository is the IAEA. Since then until the present-day we work to the best of our ability on establishing of a stable regime in the area of radiation protection and nuclear safety. Bosnia and Herzegovina also fulfills its international obligations in relation to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and in compliance with international agreements that are currently in force.

Our satisfaction is greater when reputable international organizations, in particular the IAEA, recognize our active role in mentioned areas and acknowledge that. They also offer significant support to our country through various projects that strengthen activities of relevant institutions and sustainability of our system.

Mr. President,

Through institutional capacity that we possess, we are seeking to improve our system that was established in compliance with the highest international standards of the IAEA but also the EU standards because we are striving to become an EU member. The Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a number of regulations that are harmonized with the "IAEA Basic Safety Standards" as well as EURATOM directives (the European Atomic Energy Community). While making efforts to strengthen our own capacity we can, in the best possible way, respond to challenges in relation to nuclear safety and security.

In the last years we devoted specific attention to capacity development in the area of nuclear safety, actually in our case safety of radioactive sources, since it is well-known to all of us that primary responsibility for nuclear safety lies within the state

and the state has to meet its obligations aiming at not only its own security but security of other states as well. Bosnia and Herzegovina started with activities regarding the implementation of the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan that was approved by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2014. These activities are implemented in close cooperation with the IAEA and we expect that in the next few years we will have sustainable capacity for adequate response to challenges in this area.

We work intensively on improving our capacity related to emergencies. The Emergency Plan of Action has been prepared in cooperation with relevant institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and with support of the IAEA expert mission. The Plan has been officially approved and adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina this year.

Mr. President,

As you certainly know, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA for the period 2013-2015. Our Delegation in its activities has always supported all decisions that further contribute strengthening of nuclear security and stability in the region and globally, as well as strengthening of technical, financial and human resources of the Agency. Bosnia and Herzegovina deposited the Instrument of ratification of **2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)** in June 2010 and in this regard calls all countries that have not yet done so to ratify Amendment as soon as possible. Bosnia and Herzegovina appreciates the efforts of the Agency to assist countries in implementation of their national projects and meet their national developments goals through the Technical cooperation programme.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina is, as we emphasized, the signatory of the most important conventions whose depository is the IAEA but also other international agreements related to nuclear energy whose depositories are other international organizations. Here, we would like to highlight, in particular, that in the course of the year Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in a regular meeting of member states of the **Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of**

Radioactive Waste Management, where, for the first time, we presented our report and took part in so-called "peer review" process. During that meeting, and also today, we express our concern due to activities that are being conducted by our neighboring country, the Republic of Croatia, which refer to construction of a repository for radioactive waste disposal, nuclear waste and spent fuel near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Krsko Nuclear Power Plant, located in the Republic of Slovenia and jointly owned by the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia. Upon closing of this nuclear power plant, scheduled to take place in 2043, the Republic of Croatia intends to allocate part of its nuclear waste on the site which is only three kilometers away from an inhabited place (Novi Grad in BiH) that has around 30 thousand inhabitants. Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly opposes to the construction of this facility as foreseen by the Republic of Croatia because local community on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, near the location planned for this facility, is unanimously against such project. We believe that the Republic of Croatia could find a more appropriate solution for these activities which does not jeopardize our good neighbourly relations.

To Conclude, Mr. President,

We assure you that Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue with its activities that refer to strengthening nuclear safety and security and implementation of its international obligations in this area. We would like to be involved in activities of international community that are in relation to safe use of nuclear energy and ensuring security for such use. Bearing in mind the IAEA continues to support Bosnia and Herzegovina through technical cooperation projects that will significantly facilitate efforts that we make.

Thank you, Mr. President!