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REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Statement by the Delegation of Albania  
at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Conference of the IAEA**

as delivered by Ms. Ravesa Lleshi  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Vienna, 20 September 2017

Madam President,  
Director General,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Albania fully aligned with the statement of the European Union, but I would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

Madam President,

I congratulate you on your election as President of the General Conference at its 61<sup>st</sup> session, and assure you of the full cooperation and support of the Albanian delegation in discharging your responsibilities. Albania would like also to express its appreciation and gratitude to Director General Amano and to the Secretariat for their dedicated work, and congratulate Mr. Amano for his reappointment as Director General. We also welcome Grenada as a new Member of the Agency.

Madam President,

The Agency makes a vital contribution to international peace and security through its credible verification activities. Albania reaffirms its full support to the Director General for the Agency's work in maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness of the safeguards system and we join the call for the universalization of Comprehensive Safeguard Agreements and Additional Protocols.

Albania firmly believes that the Agency's verification of the DPRK's nuclear program remains critical, particularly in face of the country's clear and systematic violations of UN Security Council resolutions. We reiterate the urgent need for agreement on a strong resolution by this General Conference on the DPRK.

Madam President,

During this past year, the IAEA has made considerable progress in all fields of its mandated activities. The Annual Report for 2016 is a solid document of the Agency's work and achievements, which Albania fully endorses. I would like to touch upon some aspects which are of particular importance to my country.

We note with high appreciation the specific, continuous and substantial contribution that the Agency makes to a number of development sectors in Albania, in particular to human health, the environment, agriculture and the strengthening of regulatory authorities.

The *International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme* earlier this year highlighted once again the unique role of the Agency in promoting a responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Albania has been a regular contributor to the technical cooperation fund, paying its contributions towards the Regular Budget on time and in full, which we encourage all Member States to do. It is a pre-requisite for ensuring sustained and predictable resources for the Agency, to be used for the benefit of its Member States.

We look forward to concluding the new Country Programme Framework with the Agency, which will continue to reflect our national priorities and needs. We also very much welcome that this year's Scientific Forum is devoted to "Nuclear Techniques in Human Health: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment". The fight against cancer remains high on the Albanian Government's agenda. Our comprehensive *National Cancer Control Programme* (NCCP) has already produced significant improvements in the quality and safety of diagnostic and therapeutic cancer services. Mother Teresa Hospital in Tirana has now a modern radiotherapy centre, which is providing radiotherapy and nuclear medicine services. The Agency's support has been pivotal, not only in commissioning a second state-of-the-art linear accelerator (linac), to be installed later this year, but also through its continued focus on human capacity building. As the radiotherapy centre at Mother Teresa Hospital grows into a Centre of Excellence for the entire country, we remain ready to share our experience and continue to serve as a Model Demonstration Site for the Agency's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT).

Madam President,

Albania welcomes the adoption of the Nuclear Security Plan for the period 2018-2021. We value the continuous support of the Agency to strengthen our national nuclear security regime and improve the radioactive monitoring capacities of the country. The Albanian Government also fully subscribes and is committed to strengthening international co-operation in the field of nuclear security, in order to ensure the effective prevention, detection, delay and response with regard to the security of radioactive materials. Albania has reviewed and approved its

Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) and has started on its implementation. Standard Operating Procedures for customs service have been prepared, and an adequate regulatory framework, aligned with relevant international standards, is now in place.

Madam President,

Half of the ministers in the newly formed Government of Albania are women. We value the commitment of Director General Amano to increase the representation of women in Agency programmes and operations and appreciate that the proportion of women in the professional and higher categories is now at a historic high of 29.4%. We look forward to the strengthening of the IAEA's gender equality policy.

I would like to conclude by reiterating again my delegation's full support to you, Madam President, in steering this General Conference to a successful conclusion.

I thank you.