

STATEMENT

OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Delivered by H.E. Sanjin Halimovic

**Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to UN Office and other
International Organizations in Vienna**

Vienna, 20 September 2017

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina allow me, Madam President, to extend my warm congratulations on your elections as the President of the 61st General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in making this Conference a success. At the same time I would like to join others in welcoming Grenada as new Member State of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I would also like to warmly congratulate the Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his reappointment and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully associates itself with the Statement of the European Union, delivered on the first day of the Conference. In my national capacity, I wish to address some issues of particular importance to my country relevant to the Agenda of the Conference.

Madam President,
Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted the most important international treaties, conventions and agreements related to the IAEA's work. As a member of the IAEA since 1995 we continue to support the Agency's mandate in promoting nuclear safeguards and verification, safety and security and cooperation in field of science and technologies. Current challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime reaffirm necessity of achieving the highest standards in the field of nuclear security and non-proliferation regime. We are committed to achieving

universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) and we recognise that the IAEA safeguard system is the only mechanism to verify non-diversion of nuclear activities to military purposes and that assures compliance with non-proliferation obligations undertaken by States Parties to the NPT.

Madame President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is an essential part in the interaction between the Member States and the IAEA. The TCP, which is also one of the principal instruments for transferring nuclear science and technology to Member States, in order to promote social, economic and integral development has been highly valued by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the years Bosnia and Herzegovina has benefited from different projects in many fields, and with the assistance of the IAEA, has upgraded its capabilities in field of use of nuclear technologies, radiation protection and nuclear safety compliance with IAEA standards. We will continue our cooperation with the Technical Cooperation Department in order to improve and strengthen our national capabilities in radiation protection and nuclear safety. In this context we congratulate the IAEA for organizing the first International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. Bosnia and Herzegovina`s participation on the ministerial level demonstrating the importance of this Conference for us.

In May this year Director General of the IAEA visited Bosnia and Herzegovina and met Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Minister of Civil Affairs. This visit represents an important event in the strengthening cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Agency. We are convinced in the continuation of the support of the IAEA via Technical Cooperation Programme.

Madam President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina participated at the The Seventh Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, held in March and April this year and successfully presented its National Report. Affirming the importance of the Joint Convention of the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, Bosnia and Herzegovina also participated in the Third Extraordinary Meeting and Organizational Meeting for the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Vienna in May this year and National Report will be present in May next year. As a state party of the above mentioned Joint Convention Bosnia and Herzegovina reiterates its position concerning activities conducted by one of our neighbouring countries, regarding the construction of storage and disposal for radioactive waste low and intermediate activity, near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. We once again express our concern over the environmental impact of those activities on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Madam President

In conclusion, I would like to thank Director General Amano and Agency staff for their diligent work and professionalism over the past year.

I wish you, Madam President, and us all a successful General Conference.

Thank you!