



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE OSCE, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN VIENNA**

Statement by the

Head of Delegation of the Republic of Croatia

Dubravka Plejic Markovic, Ambassador, Permanent Representative

at the 61st IAEA General Conference

Madame President,

Allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of 61st General Conference. Knowing your diplomatic skills we are convinced that under your guidance our task will be accomplished successfully and I can assure you of the full support of my delegation. With your election and generally more attention paid to gender mainstreaming within the Agency the dynamic of the Agency is given another boost.

Furthermore, I would like to express appreciation for the re-appointment of the Director General Amano and also to commend him and the Secretariat for their dedicated work in steering the Agency through the challenges of the past year.

Effective verification and monitoring of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action which continued in respect of Iran have brought about more security and predictability in international non-proliferation regime unlike the ongoing activities carried-out by DPRK which are contravening the international law. We note with satisfaction succession of high-level visits paid to the Agency this year which is another sign of its significant international standing.

We support the membership request by Grenada, move which once again underlines enduring relevance of the Agency and its mandate.

Madame President, Excellences,

The Republic of Croatia fully aligned with the EU statement. Allow me to say a few words in my national capacity.

Croatia firmly supports implementation of the NPT in all three pillars, recognizing at the same time the Safeguards as the key element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We are implementing the system of integrated safeguards and all nuclear material available is being used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The Government has adopted this year decision which will enable Croatia to become “side letter state” regarding the implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the non-nuclear-weapon States of the European Atomic Energy Community, the European Atomic Energy Community and the IAEA in implementing Article III (1) and (4) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

As a Party to all major international treaties and conventions relating to nuclear safety and security, Croatia is fully committed to their implementation. In that spirit we participated in the 7th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which was held in March/April 2017.

Furthermore Croatia has already prepared the country review report for the 6th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety

of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste

Management, which will be held next year.

Nuclear energy plays a major role in stable and carbon free supply of electrical energy to Croatian citizens and industry for more than 30 years. Joint venture of Slovenia and Croatia in developing and safe operation of Krško NPP is yet another positive example of cooperation with Slovenia in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, with positive economic and ecological side-effects.

Croatia is committed to support safe and secure operation of Krško NPP in accordance with bilateral agreement, fully taking into account all obligations including those with respect to the safe management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. With regard to bilateral cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and security we continue our cooperation with Slovenia and Hungary

Let me again point out to the existing Protocol establishing communication modalities between regulatory bodies of Croatia and BH since 2013. Similar agreement on co-operation between regulatory bodies of Croatia and Serbia is currently being negotiated.

In line with the requirements set out in the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management as well as in the Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom establishing a Community framework for responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety drafted National

program for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Management of Radioactive Waste, Disused Sources and Spent Nuclear Fuel from 2014. Strategic Environmental Assessment of the proposed National program took into account the highest safety standards for protection of human health and the environment and all international obligations, including Espoo and Aarhus conventions. It is expected that the National program will be adopted by the Croatian Government in the near future

The most important aspect of co-operation between Croatia and the Agency in 2017. took place within the framework of Technical Cooperation Program, at the national and regional level.

Project cycle 2016/2017 included four national technical cooperation project-implementation, covering introduction and utilization of different techniques in medicine, upgrading of dose management in medicine and isotope investigation of ground and surface water. For the next cycle 2018/2019, five national and one regional project have been proposed by Croatia in line with the priorities of the technical cooperation with the Agency set in the Country Program Framework from 2014.

In conclusion Madame President, let me stress once again that Croatia fully supports the work of the Agency and calls on all Member States to approve the proposed budget for 2018 to allow for the Agency's functioning.

Thank you.