

Statement of the Czech Republic
Delivered by Ms. Dana Drábová
President of the State Office for Nuclear Safety
To the 2017 IAEA General Conference
Of the International Atomic Energy Agency

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Thank you, Madam President.

My delegation congratulates you on your election as President of this Conference. You have the assurance of the close cooperation of my delegation.

We would like to congratulate Director General Amano on his re-election and to wish him every success in discharging his duties and responsibilities over the next years.

We furthermore welcome the application for membership by Grenada.

Madam President, your Excellencies, distinguished guests, the Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by Estonia. I would like to add only a few points in my national capacity, bearing in mind the new time limit.

Madam President,

The Czech Republic's nuclear sector is regularly reviewed by various IAEA peer missions. In May, we hosted the IRRS follow-up mission. The international team of senior safety experts reviewed the measures undertaken following the recommendations and suggestions of the 2013 IRRS Mission, comparing the Czech regulatory framework for safety against IAEA safety standards and international best practices. The IRRS mission review comprised the legal and regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety, addressing all facilities and activities regulated by the regulatory authority, State Office for Nuclear Safety (SONS). Let me share with you the main observations resulting from the mission. The IRRS team concluded that the recommendations and suggestions from the 2013 IRRS mission have been taken into account systematically, based on a comprehensive action plan established by SONS, which has led to significant progress in all areas. Having considered the status of the recommendations and suggestions set out in the initial IRRS mission

report, the IRRS team determined that 16 out of 18 recommendations and 17 out of 18 suggestions, made by the 2013 IRRS mission, have been effectively addressed and therefore could be considered closed, and that many improvements have been implemented. The mission team observed that in recent years the Czech Republic has significantly enhanced its regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety. It was noted that the new Atomic Act, in force since the beginning of 2017, and the development of supporting regulatory decrees based, among others, on IAEA safety standards, represent significant achievements in this regard, and that it has created a good foundation for a robust safety framework. Improvements in human resources management, including long-term strategic planning, competence mapping and staff training were specifically mentioned. The IRRS Team also identified a new good practice related to the active engagement of the Regulator in communicating with the public through a Web Conference. I was pleased when the Director of the IAEA's Division of Nuclear Installation Safety stated that SONS is an effective and transparent regulator and added that the significant progress made in enhancing the regulatory infrastructure is a reflection of SONS's commitment to continuous safety improvement and of the effectiveness of IRRS missions. Let me reiterate that the positive results of the IRRS follow-up review provide us with another confirmation of the good direction of our efforts in improving the national safety framework, which has been recently strengthened by the adoption of new national legislation in the nuclear area, and that the review provided us once again with a valuable opportunity to improve the safety framework and to exchange information and experience with the IRRS team members.

However, we are not planning to rest on our laurels - implementation of the new Atomic Act through regulations, guides and procedures remains our priority and the project reflecting the Recommendation concerning the development

and implementation of the Regulator's Integrated Management System is planned to be completed by 2020.

Madam President,

Turning now to the area of Technical Cooperation, let me emphasise how we appreciate the significant contribution the Agency makes in many regards through its TC Programme, which provides the necessary support to allow countries to use nuclear energy in a safe, secure and effective way. I am pleased to mention that the Czech Republic has held for a long time the status of a "net contributor". This year we have continued our extrabudgetary financial support of the IAEA TC Programme through the Peaceful Uses Initiative, assisting to Armenia in upgrading its national nuclear regulatory infrastructure.

On a related note, we are aware of how important it is that the IAEA has certainty of funding, therefore we pay our Regular Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund contributions in full and on-time.

Madam President,

It remains our long-standing view that despite various, mainly economic, challenges the utilisation of nuclear energy has a future, as perhaps the only technology that can be currently deployed on a sufficiently large scale to provide base-load low-carbon power, ensuring continued energy security and availability in many countries. The Czech Republic will continue to support the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, without compromising safety and security and in accordance with safeguards.

Madam President, that concludes my remarks and I wish you and the Conference every success.