



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the 61st
General Conference of the IAEA**

Delivered by

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Ms. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.
2. First, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of this 61st General Conference. The EU would also like to thank the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial work and congratulate Mr Amano for the re-election as Director General. The EU furthermore welcomes the applications for membership by Grenada.
3. The EU attaches great importance to the IAEA's core responsibilities in the fields of non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and technical cooperation. We look forward to the General Conference having a focussed discussion on these areas of IAEA expertise.
4. Similarly, the EU attaches importance in the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. Striving for gender equality within the IAEA, for instance by increasing the representation of women in the professional categories and management positions, is of benefit to the IAEA.

Ms. President,

5. The EU is fully committed to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Considering its 10th review cycle, which is important in many aspects, the EU reiterates its firm support for the full, complete, and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and vital for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. We continue to support

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

* Iceland is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

the universalisation of the NPT and call upon States that have not yet done so to join the NPT as non-nuclear weapon States.

6. We would like to underline the importance of the IAEA safeguards system in the implementation of the NPT as well as the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance. The EU further recognises the serious proliferation challenges which continue to be a threat to international security, and the need to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions to them.

Ms. President,

7. The EU is committed to the full implementation by all parties of the JCPOA, an agreement endorsed by the UNSC in Resolution 2231(2015). While welcoming the ongoing implementation, the EU reiterates the need for Iran to abide strictly by all its nuclear-related commitments and to cooperate fully and in a timely manner with the IAEA through implementation of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, including by providing all requested access. This is crucial for the IAEA to reach the Broader Conclusion. Together with the full and sustained implementation of the JCPOA, reaching this conclusion is essential to help building international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. In this regard, the early ratification by Iran of the AP is essential. The EU fully supports the IAEA's long-term mission of verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments and recalls the importance of ensuring the necessary means for the Agency to carry out its role.
8. The EU strongly condemns the DPRK's latest nuclear test and all nuclear weapons and ballistic missile activities led by the DPRK. Its latest nuclear test, which followed a set of ballistic missile launches, some of which were of intercontinental range, repeatedly and deliberately threaten international peace and security and disrupt the strategic equilibrium in Asia, and beyond. The EU welcomes the unanimous adoption of the UNSC Resolution 2375 on 11 September imposing further sanctions on the DPRK. The DPRK is the only State to have conducted nuclear explosive tests in the 21st century, in contravention of several UNSC Resolutions, which inter alia call on all states to refrain from conducting nuclear test explosions or

any other nuclear explosions. Nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions represent a threat to international peace and security and undermine the non-proliferation regime, which the EU has steadfastly supported for decades. We urge DPRK to reverse course and to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, cease immediately all related activities, to return to the NPT, IAEA Safeguards at an early date and to sign and ratify the CTBT. The EU supports diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula through peaceful means. The EU continues to attach the highest importance to maintaining an essential role for the IAEA in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme. There is therefore an urgent need for agreement on a strong resolution on the DPRK being adopted by the General Conference.

9. Recalling the resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 June 2011, which concluded that Syria is in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement, the EU urges Syria to cooperate promptly and transparently with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues including through concluding and implementing an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

10. The EU reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East and reiterates its readiness to assist in the process leading to its establishment. We maintain the view that, dialogue and building confidence among all stakeholders is the only sustainable way towards a meaningful conference, to be attended by all States of Middle East on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them.

Ms. President,

11. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current verification standard and the EU continues to call for their universalisation without delay. We welcome that Cameroon has recently brought into force an Additional Protocol. In this respect, the EU welcomes the fact that 129 Additional Protocols are in force and also notes that another 17 States have signed an Additional Protocol but have yet to bring it into force. The EU furthermore urges the remaining 38 States which

have not yet amended the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP), to accelerate their efforts.

The EU strongly supports the State-level concept (SLC), as well as the further development and application of enhanced capabilities of analytical services information analysis and technologies. The EU is convinced that a consistent and universal application of the SLC can contribute to a further strengthening of the efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA Safeguards System and thus contribute to global non-proliferation efforts.

12. For the EU, the close cooperation between EURATOM and the IAEA is conducive to effective and efficient safeguards both in the EU as well as beyond. The EU is actively supporting the Agency's safeguards system through the EC Safeguards Support Programme and through the Support Programmes of some of its Member States.

Ms. President,

13. The EU remains firmly committed to the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and ensuring that high standards of safety, security and safeguards are implemented to protect our non-proliferation interest, and welcomes the signing and its approval by the Board of the Host State Agreement between Kazakhstan and the IAEA in 2015 on the establishment of the LEU Bank. The EU congratulates both Kazakhstan and the IAEA on the successful construction and opening of a facility dedicated to the operation of the IAEA LEU Bank. The EU supports this project with around € 25 million, € 20 million for acquiring the LEU and around € 4.4 million for safety and security related measures and welcomes the Agency's launch of a fair and transparent acquisition process of the LEU required for the establishment of the Bank.
14. The EU notes that projections for global installed nuclear power capacity indicate an increase by 2030, with different regional developments. Although these projections have been lowered since 2010, we note that nuclear power remains an important option for several IAEA Member States. While acknowledging that any country has its sovereign right to decide on its own energy mix, some countries consider that nuclear power production is a way to prevent or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thus fight against climate change, whereas other countries have chosen

other options to achieve the same. Modernisation of existing nuclear power plants and construction of new ones continues in several regions of the world. Nuclear facilities should only be planned and constructed with strict adherence to relevant international conventions and nuclear safety standards, and national safety regulations. It is important that this process is underpinned by open dialogue with neighbouring countries and transparent public communication.

15. The EU, through its Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, has allocated € 225 million over the period 2014 – 2020 in support of third countries to promote a high level of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards, as further support to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
16. The EU and its Member States attach utmost importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of nuclear safety. The amended Council Directive on Nuclear Safety introduces, inter alia, an ambitious new nuclear safety objective of preventing accidents with radiological consequences and mitigate such consequences should they occur, and sets up a European system of regular topical peer reviews on the specific topic related to nuclear safety. The nuclear safety objective, which is also included in the principles enshrined in the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety adopted in 2015 by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), remains a priority for the EU Member States. The EU and its Member States include in their priorities and emphasize the importance of keeping the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and the cross-cutting safety issues defined by CNS Contracting Parties at the front and centre of the IAEA's work in this space. The summary report and the major common issues defined at the 7th CNS Review Meeting clearly set out nuclear safety priorities, which will help the Agency ensure that its work adds value where it is most needed, does not duplicate activities undertaken elsewhere and makes the best use of its resources.

Ms. President,

17. The EU stresses the need to prevent nuclear terrorism and the misuse of nuclear and radioactive material. We recognize the value of the

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the UNSC Resolutions 1540 and 2325. In the context of the EU strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, we are actively supporting international initiatives, which contribute to strengthening nuclear security. For the period 2014-2020, the EU dedicates more than €100 million to the EU's regional Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence initiative. The EU strongly supports the central role of the IAEA in the global nuclear security framework and welcomes the adoption of the Nuclear Security Plan for the period 2018-2021. We call on Member States to make full use of the IAEA's Nuclear Security Advisory services. We also call on IAEA Member States to ensure reliable and sustainable resources for these services. Together with its Member States, the European Union is currently the second biggest donor to the Nuclear Security Fund. €45 million from EU funds and another 75 million from EU Member States were contributed to the Nuclear Security Fund to date, to the benefit of around 100 countries.

18. The EU welcomes the entry into force in May 2016 of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). The EU will continue to help States in their efforts to fully implement the provisions of the Amended CPPNM and encourages the Agency to promote universal adherence to it.

Ms. President,

19. The EU and its Member States continue to be strong supporters of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, including through the TC Fund and the Peaceful Uses Initiative, and are the second largest contributor to the TC Programme. We fully appreciate the Agency's role in promoting a responsible development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of, inter alia, human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, preservation of cultural heritage, nuclear and radiation safety, and nuclear energy. We welcome the Secretariat's present and future efforts to promote gender equality throughout the TC Programme. We also express our appreciation for the Agency's work using the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) with the most recent success stories in the Dominican Republic and Senegal or the efforts to reduce the damage caused by the Mediterranean fruit fly to the coffee industry. The IAEA's

Nuclear Sciences and Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf (NA Laboratories) contribute essential work in this respect and we welcome the progress made by the Director General's initiative regarding the modernization of the NA Laboratories ("ReNuAL and ReNuAL+"). The European Union supports both the IAEA, and IAEA Member States, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, also through technical expertise and with an average amount of € 15 million per year.

20. The EU welcomes the decision of the Director General to devote this year's Scientific Forum to "Nuclear Techniques in Human Health: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment".

Finally Ms. President,

The EU looks forward to a successful General Conference and would like to assure you of its full support.

I thank you.