



G R E E C E

**Statement by Ambassador Chryssoula Aliferi
Resident Representative of Greece to the IAEA
61st General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna, September 18-22th, 2017**

Madame President,

On behalf of Greece I would like to congratulate **Director General** Mr. Amano for his unanimous re-election, your/Her Excellency the Ambassador of Philippines for your/her election as **President** of the 61st General Conference and, last but not least, **Grenada** for joining the IAEA family.

As a member of the **European Union**, Greece fully associates itself with the EU statement, delivered yesterday by Estonia, the current EU Presidency.

Now, some issues of particular importance for Greece:

Fully respecting **International Law** and the **United Nations system** as a whole, Greece attaches great importance to the **IAEA's mission** to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

Once again, we **urge** all States that have not yet done so to join the **NPT**, the cornerstone of the international nuclear non proliferation regime. In view of the 10th, important and in many aspects critical, NPT Review Cycle, we consider crucial to pursue ways for the participation of states with nuclear weapons in an engaging dialogue on nuclear disarmament.

Once again Greece **calls** upon all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (**CTBT**) so that it comes into force.

We condemn the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea's** violations of International Law and of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. We call on DPRK to comply with its international obligations, including to return to the NPT and the IAEA safeguards, and to enter into meaningful dialogue with the international community for the promotion of peace and stability in the wider region.

We reaffirm our full support for the establishment of a **zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East**.

We welcome once again the ongoing implementation of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** and commend the **IAEA** for professionally fulfilling its mission of verification and monitoring of **Iran's** nuclear related commitments. All parties should remain committed to this historic agreement which proves the value of multilateral diplomacy.

Madame President,

Nuclear power option is not part of our national energy mix. However, we acknowledge all States' legitimate right to peaceful and cautious use of nuclear energy.

The IAEA has a vital role in strengthening States' capacity to ensure that the development and use of nuclear energy take place under the most rigorous **safety conditions** for the protection of people and the environment, especially in regions with dynamic seismic and earthquake activity.

Nuclear security remains the responsibility of the States. The IAEA plays a central role in coordinating international efforts and strengthening the international nuclear security architecture.

We call upon all states, regionally and internationally, to implement the IAEA's **nuclear security guidance documents**. We encourage States to use advisory services of the Agency and to host **peer review** and associated follow-up missions.

Further measures should be taken nationally and internationally to enhance global nuclear security framework.

Greece has actively participated to the IAEA's Nuclear **Security** Conference, to the 7th Review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear **Safety** and to the **Technical Cooperation** Conference, all held in Vienna, since the last IAEA General Assembly.

We welcomed the entry into force of the Amendment of the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (**CPPNM**) and we are looking forward to participating at the International Conference on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities this coming November.

Madame President,

Greece closely cooperates with the IAEA particularly through the **Greek Atomic Energy Commission**. Our National Authority completes these days **thirty years of active role as *The regulatory and monitoring Authority of Greece on nuclear issues***.

Allow me to highlight the main recent national activities:

Last May the **Greek Atomic Energy Commission** hosted two regional seminars:

In order to promote nuclear security, they hosted a regional workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Response for Developing National Arrangements, with 26 participants from 16 member-states.

In order to promote nuclear safety, they hosted a Train the Trainers course for Radiation protection officers, with participants from 23 member-states.

Another 9 scientists from 6 countries were trained in Greece within different fellowships, scientific visits and On The Job training.

More than 20 Greek scientists have participated to IAEA's programs of technical cooperation.

Greece has also participated in 20 regional programmes of technical cooperation.

This coming November Greece will have a follow-up Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission.

Greece continues to upgrade facilities and regulatory controls of the unit of temporary storage of radioactive sources and radioactive waste. We have also put 11 new systems of tracking radioactive sources at two Custom stations.

A national Regulations of Radioprotection Act is at its final stage.

We actively participated to the CONVEX-3 exercise in Hungary.

Finally, through its regulatory authority, Greece, a **maritime nation**, currently chairs the Mediterranean Network for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials (MedNet).

Greece is also honoured by the Director General's decision to have a high level Greek expert to serve as member of *AdSec*, the DG's advisory group on Nuclear Security, for the current three year period.

Concluding, Madame President,

The Greek Government would like to reiterate its strong support to the important mission and relevant projects of the IAEA and to express Greece's commitment to continue its active cooperation with the Agency.

Thank You