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MONTENEGRO

STATEMENT

by

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Madam President,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, I would like to express our highest appreciation to the IAEA in achieving the great results in global nuclear cooperation and maintaining of international peace and security since its foundation. I wish once again to congratulate to Mr. Amano for the re-election as Director General of the Agency. It is a great pleasure to be Member State of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and I am honoured to have the opportunity to present briefly priorities and significant progress made by Montenegro within the frame of our collaboration.

As you have been already informed, Montenegro has become a formal member of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) on 5 June 2017 and is in the negotiation process with the European Union (EU) with 28 Negotiation chapters opened and 3 are provisionally closed at the moment. In the light of this important developments, the opportunities for the amplification of our cooperation with the Agency are constantly improving.

Montenegro adopted the new Country Programme Framework (CPF) for cooperation with the Agency for the mid-term period 2014-2020 in October 2014. Our national priority areas for cooperation are: Nuclear Sciences and Applications; Sustainable Development and the Environment; Health; Radiation Protection; Nuclear Safety and Security; and Human Resource Development.

Being an Ecological State by the first article of the Constitution, Montenegro in its major decisions consider environmental sustainability as a key component and recognizes the significance of the further enhancement of our activities in this particular field. In that sense, we welcomed the extension of the valuable technical and expert assistance of the Agency for creation of conditions for enhancing the environmental protection efforts over years, which is the great support in our efforts to enable comprehensive and dynamic development of Montenegro based on the principle of sustainability.

Another important field in the cooperation with the IAEA is Human Health, particularly the application of the nuclear technologies in medicine as a significant tool to enhance human health. Concerning this field, the Agency has provided valuable support in the radiology, oncology and in improvement of the Montenegro's nuclear medicine capacities. Therefore, we are committed to providing our full support and cooperation with the Agency on this issue in the 2018-2019 Technical Cooperation (TC) Cycle.

Montenegro especially put its attention on the strengthening of the national security framework by implementing international instruments and fostering cooperation in preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials and terrorism and takes part in numerous non-proliferation initiatives, one of which is the Programme for the establishment of a system for knowledge management in the area of illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances and weapons in Southeast Europe and Caucasus.

Since 2007, Montenegro has successfully participated in numerous TC projects, national, regional and interregional, thus we hope to continue these positive and effective activities.

With a great pleasure I would like to inform you about the Initiative for the establishment of a South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies.

The initiative was proposed by Prof. Herwig Schopper, former Director General of CERN, aiming to promote collaboration between science, technology and industry, but also to provide platforms for the education and training of young scientists and engineers based on knowledge and technology transfer from European laboratories like CERN and

others. An essential feature of such activities would be fostering cooperation of the countries in the Region. A real international cooperation, bringing people together in the spirit 'Science for Peace', could contribute to develop the economic situation, to improve the standard of living, to produce attractive jobs, in particular for young people, and to revert the 'brain drain' which is one of the largest problem in our region.

The main contenders for the projects are a new type (4th generation) of Synchrotron Light Source with a broad spectrum of research and industrial applications, and a Facility for Tumour Radiation Therapy and Biomedical Research with protons and heavier ions.

This Initiative was first officially supported by the Government of Montenegro, and is now embraced by almost the whole region. The Initiative will soon be formalized as a Regional project, after signing the Declaration of Intent scheduled for October at CERN. While the Initiative is making quite some progress both on political and scientific fronts, we are aware that the Training program of scientists, engineers and technicians is important from the beginning in order to build-up expertise, i.e. to form a sufficient critical mass of staff members for operation of the future machines as well as Users Communities. We are aware of the key role which the Agency had for the Training program to help the success of the SESAME Project. Thus, we would greatly appreciate receiving similar support from the IAEA to this Initiative.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude for your dedicated work and help and to use this opportunity to warmly welcome the new Agency Member States.

Thank you!