



**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO BE DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR BIRNUR FERTEKLIĞIL
AT THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
61ST GENERAL CONFERENCE
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Madam President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 61st Session of the IAEA General Conference and the members of the General Committee on their election.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Grenada. Turkey stands ready to cooperate with all new members.

I would also like to congratulate Director General Amano on his appointment to this post for a third term. Under his able leadership, the Secretariat continues to discharge its duties with characteristic dedication and professionalism.

Turkey is of the view that, this edition of the Annual Report is of symbolic importance as 2016 marked the 60th anniversary of the IAEA. Turkey welcomes the Agency's continued support to its members in the use of nuclear science and technology to address global challenges, ranging from meeting growing energy needs and protecting the environment, to improving food security and human health. In this regard, we support the IAEA's efforts to contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

Madam President,

Sustainable development is not possible if health suffers due to debilitating diseases and conditions. Turkey applauds the Agency for selecting "Nuclear

Techniques in Human Health: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment” as the theme for this year’s Scientific Forum. The Forum will provide a good opportunity to discuss developments and prospects in this vast field among experts and officials.

Turkey, in its efforts to employ non-power nuclear applications in many fields, attaches importance to enhancing its capacity in medical uses of nuclear technology. With its newly established Proton Accelerator Facility and Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory, Turkey improved its capacity of radiopharmaceutical production for medical applications and standardization in radiation dose measurements.

Turkey follows closely the Agency’s work which contributes to improved cancer management and access to care worldwide.

The IAEA Nuclear Application Laboratories in Siebersdorf fulfill an important function in extending the benefits of nuclear technologies to members. In order to demonstrate its political commitment to supporting IAEA’s role in sustainable development, my country has made a symbolic financial contribution to the ReNuAL Plus project.

Madam President,

Turkey is determined to carry forward its nuclear power projects in order to increase and diversify its energy supplies and industrial development. Currently, three NPP projects are in various stages.

The most advanced project is the Akkuyu NPP, being developed in cooperation with the Russian Federation. In February 2017, the design parameters of the Akkuyu NPP site has been approved by the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority. With this, site licensing has been completed and construction license phase started in Akkuyu NPP.

Sinop NPP project is at feasibility stage. It is conducted on the basis of an Intergovernmental Agreement signed with the Japanese Government in 2013. For

the third NPP project, site selection and technology evaluation process is ongoing.

Turkey meticulously takes all precautions in generating nuclear power safely. Bilateral cooperation to improve nuclear safety, prominently figures in our intergovernmental cooperation agreements for NPP projects.

Turkey follows the IAEA's Safety Standards and guidance, as well as drawing on main international mechanisms, such as the CNS. Turkey participated actively in the 7th Review Meeting of CNS held this year. The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management is on our national agenda.

Additionally, Turkish Atomic Energy Authority, has signed bilateral cooperation agreements with its Russian, Ukrainian, Finnish, US, French, Japanese and Chinese counterparts in the field of nuclear and radiation safety.

As a newcomer country, Turkey encourages Member States, especially those which licensed the same technologies in their NPPs, to continue sharing safety-relevant findings among regulators, operators and industry, bilaterally or with the assistance of the IAEA.

Turkey works on enhancing its national infrastructure, human resources and knowledge capacity. This work takes into account the latest IAEA safety standards and international best practices, as well as EU Directives.

Turkey maintains close dialogue with the IAEA on the development of its nuclear power infrastructure. We are highly appreciative of the Agency's invaluable assistance. This year, Turkish Atomic Energy Authority and IAEA initiated a TC project activity to host IAEA technical safety review services for the Akkuyu NPP Project. This is an independent safety evaluation based on the IAEA Safety Standards.

The emphasis Turkey puts on nuclear safety extends to aged nuclear power plants as well. To Turkey, this remains to be a matter of particular concern. We

call on the relevant Member States to review and enhance the safety of such nuclear power plants in line with the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety and updated IAEA safety standards without delay.

Madam President,

The past year has seen significant developments in international security. International Conference on Nuclear Security, hosted by the Agency in December was an important event which helped maintain political momentum and raise awareness of nuclear security among all stakeholders. Turkey welcomes the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Conference, and recognizes the central role of the Agency in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation.

Turkey enjoys Agency assistance in the field of nuclear security as well. Turkey invited the Agency to conduct an IPPAS mission and expect to host it next year. Turkey implements the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and welcomes the new Supplementary Guidance on the Safety and Security of Disused Radioactive Sources, which was approved by the Board of Governors last week.

Madam President,

Turkey is resolutely committed to the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons and to ensuring safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Turkey reaffirms the vital importance of the NPT as the main international legal framework in this field. Turkey is also committed to strengthening the NPT based on the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan.

We welcome that during the first Preparatory Committee of the 2020 NPT Review Conference which was held last May, States Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the NPT.

Turkey favors an incremental approach to nuclear disarmament. It is our expectation that divergence in preferred instruments will not undermine or weaken the NPT.

Madam President,

The IAEA, by administering international nuclear safeguards in accordance with Article III of the NPT, has a pivotal role in the global non-proliferation regime.

Turkey has concluded both a CSA and Additional Protocol with the IAEA. The Broader Conclusion obtained from the Agency since 2012, confirms that all nuclear materials in Turkey remains in peaceful activities.

Madam President,

Turkey strongly condemns the nuclear test conducted by the DPRK on 3 September. The test is the latest iteration of this regime's flagrant violation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The continuation and further development of nuclear and ballistic missile programmes by the DPRK are sources of serious concern.

Turkey is pleased to see that, the Director General's reports on the JCPOA indicate Iran's continued adherence to its nuclear commitments under the deal. Turkey expects uninterrupted and full implementation of the JCPOA, on the basis of transparency.

On the issue of implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in Syria, we take note of Director General's recent report to the Board of Governors and trust that continued engagement of and with Syria would help the Agency in eliminating ambiguities and eventually closing this file.

Turkey supports the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free-zones, wherever feasible and on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned. The failure of the convening of a Middle East nuclear-

weapons-free-zones Conference in 2012 is a major disappointment. We call on all parties to come to an agreement on the way forward.

Madam President,

Turkey attributes great importance to the TC programme of the Agency and tries to take advantage of it, all the while contributing to it, as extensively as possible. The Ministry of Energy and National Generation Company have been conducting National TC projects.

Guidance and assistance in challenging areas such as establishing the appropriate legal and regulatory framework, site selection for NPPs and developing radioactive waste management policies and strategies are invaluable for embarking countries like Turkey. We expect that the Agency will give continued priority to those Member States developing or implementing a nuclear power programme.

Thank you Madam President.