

**STATEMENT**  
**By the Head of the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**To the 61 Session of the IAEA General Conference,**  
**(18-22 September 2017, Vienna)**

**Dear Mr. President, Dear colleagues,**

Allow me to congratulate you on your election to preside over the 61th session of the General Conference of the IAEA. On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation allow me to congratulate the other members on their election to high posts. Allow me also to welcome Grenada's application for membership in the IAEA and wish them success in their cooperation. The expansion of the membership of the IAEA is further evidence of the growing authority of the Agency throughout the world.

Mr President,

Ukraine highly values the important role which the IAEA plays in coordinating international efforts in securing nuclear non-proliferation regime and facilitating the peaceful use of nuclear energy worldwide.

We reconfirm our support for the activities of the Agency aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system, and welcome the efforts of the Agency with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to military purposes.

Despite Russia's on-going aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea, Ukraine is, and will remain committed to the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and fulfills its obligations in accordance with the Ukraine's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol thereto.

The results of the productive cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the Agency throughout 2016, Ukraine's commitment in fulfilling its international obligations as well as the State System for Accounting and Control effectively introduced in my country, enabled the Agency to draw the "broad conclusion" for Ukraine in 2016, in particular by establishing the fact that all nuclear material in Ukraine remained in peaceful activities.

Ukraine highly appreciates the IAEA's continuation of safeguards application to all nuclear facilities and materials in Ukraine in accordance with the norms of international law and the IAEA Statute.

Mr President,

We support the IAEA efforts aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of its safeguards system.

We recognize the progress made in the area of development of safeguards implementation at the State level which will enable the Agency to address new demands and challenges related to the nuclear technologies.

In this vein, we commend the high level of confidence between Ukraine and the Agency reflected in downsizing, since the application of the integrated safeguards in Ukraine in 2012, the verification activity in Ukraine.

Bearing in mind that current approaches are an essential part of international confidence-building efforts, Ukraine finds it vital to continue further improvement and optimization of safeguards regime in order to effectively respond to growing verification requirements of Member States in this regard.

Against this backdrop, Ukraine recognizes irrefutable authority and independent role of the Agency in applying safeguards and drawing relevant conclusions in accordance with its Statute, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and Agency bilateral and multilateral safeguards agreements. Ukraine notes that nothing should be done to undermine the authority of the Agency in this regard.

Mr President,

We strongly support the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) and appreciate its effective role in the responsible development of peaceful, safe and secure application of nuclear science and technology for sustainable socioeconomic development, including through the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are of the opinion that for the recent year the TC Programme has made a big step forward in terms of size, comprehensiveness and complexity of enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

Ukraine is pleased to announce its contributions to the Working Capital Fund, the Regular Budget and to the Technical Cooperation Fund been fully and timely paid.

Against this backdrop and proceeding from interests of Ukraine as a part of European region, we expect that nuclear safety, nuclear medicine, decommissioning, radioactive waste management and nuclear security will constitute priority thematic areas for the IAEA technical cooperation for 2017 and the nearest future.

Among National projects for 2016-2017 Ukraine attaches particular significance to the implementation of the project «Rendering assistance in decommissioning and radioactive waste management at the Chornobyl NPP onsite» and relevant regional projects aimed at supporting radiological management of abandoned areas following the Chornobyl accident and dissemination of Chornobyl NPP related information.

As the minimization of consequences of the Chornobyl accident, social and economic rehabilitation of contaminated territories constitute a priority for the Government of Ukraine, my country stands ready to actively cooperate with the Agency on Chornobyl related issues for the next TCP project cycle for 2018- 2019 by further implementing, inter alia, a national project aimed at supporting Chornobyl NPP Units Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management at the NPP site and within the Exclusion Zone.

Ukraine wishes to highlight that we are ready to share with Member States our national experience of successful post-accident activities at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant aimed at converting the destroyed Unit 4 into an

environmentally safe system, enabling safe demolition of unstable structures through the use of remote and state-of-art operated equipment.

After several years of construction work and with support provided by international donors, Ukraine in 2016 prosperously completed the installation of the New Safe Confinement (Arch) over the destroyed Chernobyl's Unit 4. Today we proudly acknowledge that this unprecedented engineer project in terms of design and construction already demonstrates a significant reduction of radiation exposure to the population, personnel and the environment.

We are particularly proud of results of our fruitful cooperation throughout 2016-2017, especially in relation to the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 held in Kyiv from 9 to 13 May, 2017. The exceptional success of this major public event to a large extent depended on the effective implementation of nuclear security measures, jointly prepared by the Government of Ukraine and the IAEA Secretariat.

Mr President,

Nuclear energy is and will continue to be an important component in ensuring Ukraine's energy safety and security in the medium and long term, and serve as one of the bases for ensuring sustainable development of the national economy. Its importance was reflected in the corresponding updated Energy Strategy of Ukraine, adopted by the Government this year.

Mr President,

We highly appreciate the Agency's efforts aimed at improving the level of nuclear safety and security of nuclear and radioactive materials, preventing their illicit trafficking.

As the responsibility for nuclear security rests with individual state, I wish to underline that all nuclear facilities of Ukraine are operating in a regular mode. Additional effective measures were undertaken by the competent authorities of Ukraine to ensure their nuclear security, including reinforced physical protection of 15 power units in operation at 4 sites of Ukrainian NPPs.

Ukraine is taking all necessary measures to ensure the highest level of physical protection of nuclear facilities and material, fully performs its international obligations in the area of nuclear safety and security, and comprehensively participates in the implementation of the activities envisaged by the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan.

Over the past three years Ukraine significantly improved and strengthened the national regime of physical protection of its facilities and material by developing and introducing at all Ukrainian NPPs comprehensive plans of action in case of sabotage and crisis situation. We implemented projects for modernization of physical protection systems of nuclear and waste management facilities which, inter alia, were incorporated in the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan of Ukraine for 2016-2018.

At present, we can confirm the high level of nuclear safety and nuclear security at the Ukrainian NPPs, where nuclear materials are stored and used.

Mr President,

We recognize the Secretariat's professional work in preparation of the IAEA Annual Report for 2016, which is based on the norms of international law, the IAEA Statute and respective safeguards agreements.

The IAEA as well as Member States of the Agency made it very clear that they will not accept any attempts of the Russian Federation to extend its jurisdiction over the nuclear material and facilities situated on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula.

In this regard, Ukraine wishes to reiterate that the legal framework for Agency's safeguards application in Ukraine, including on Ukraine's territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, is based on Ukraine's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol thereto, and is compliant with the UNGA Resolutions: 68/262 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", 70/10 "Report of the IAEA for 2014" and 71/158 "Report of the IAEA for 2015".

Mr President,

In conclusion, I want to assure you that we highly value the vitally important role, which the Agency plays in meeting today's combined challenges under the terms of its Statute and the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Ukraine believes, that this open-mindedness and professionalism of the Director General and the whole Secretariat lets the Agency comprehensively achieve its mandate.

**Thank you for your attention**