



## **REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

### **STATEMENT**

**BY H.E. KIRE ILIOSKI, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND  
PLENIPOTENTIARY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE, UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISATIONS**

**TO THE 59<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Vienna, 14 - 18 September, 2015**

Mr. President,

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I want to assure you of our full support and wish you every success in carrying out this task.

I also want to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Director General and the staff of the Secretariat of the Agency for their outstanding efforts and excellent work done in achieving the goals set during the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference and to compliment on professional preparations and managing this important event.

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome the membership Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan as new member states of the Agency.

The Republic of Macedonia fully associates itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Let me however point out some issues of particular interest for my country.

Mr. President, Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Macedonia fully subscribes to the need for a strong system of international safeguards to promote collective security. Facing the growing terrorism all over the world, this role of the Agency is becoming even more important. Therefore, the co-operation among all member states and the Agency, regarding the application of the Safety Standards and measures in accordance with the Nuclear Security Plan, should be permanently maintained and strengthened.

My country has joined the crucial instruments marking the milestones in the international efforts to strengthen non-proliferation, nuclear verification and export control and based on its obligations regularly submits the reports. We welcome any further steps undertaken by those member States which have not ratified yet these documents to do so in near future. What is more important, efforts to secure negotiated peaceful solution to the urgent problems need to be pursued consistently.

During the last decade, strongly oriented towards carrying out the process of integration into the European Union, the Republic of Macedonia has developed and implemented a wide range of measures to strengthen the nuclear regulatory framework and infrastructure. To prevent the misuse of nuclear and other radioactive material and related knowledge and technologies, my country constantly improves its capabilities for combating illicit trafficking, and measures for physical protection of nuclear and radioactive materials.

As far as the national regulatory infrastructure is concerned, the independent Radiation Safety Directorate, assisted by the Agency has made further progress in building the national capacities for effective radiation protection and nuclear safety. Under these activities a significant number of young experts have been trained. During the previous years, the Radiation Safety Directorate, adopted several rulebooks harmonized with the EU legislation, achieving further harmonization of the national legislation in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection. In this line the Strategic Plan 2014-2016 of the Radiation Safety Directorate is adopted. The adoption of this strategic plan represents fifth cycle of strategic planning by the Directorate, in which are presented its directions and objectives that are based on the strategic priorities of the Government of the Republic of

Macedonia for integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union and NATO.

With the signed agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and non-member States of the European Union on the participation of the latter in the Community arrangements for the early exchange of information in the event of radiological emergency (ECURIE), the Republic of Macedonia acceded to the ECURIE.

Mr. President,

Macedonia strongly supports strengthening of the IAEA technical assistance which is indispensable, primarily for developing countries. The IAEA expertise, training, education, and providing the necessary equipment are crucial in accomplishing the goals set in nuclear safeguards, safety and security, regulatory infrastructure, radiation medicine and diagnostics, cultural heritage, agriculture and many other fields. I avail myself of the opportunity to express appreciation for the Agency's assistance in the implementation of our National Technical Co-operation Program.

The priority sectors for nuclear development in the State had been tailored to highlight sectors where the IAEA's TC activities in the country can contribute within development priorities. The national development priorities and activities relevant to the Agency's TC Programme have been revised accordingly, taking into account the increased efforts by the country to achieve compliance with relevant requirements for EU membership and relevant international development assistance, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Government has already stated in its Report on the MDGs that "the integration in the European Union is the basic driving force behind the reforms in the state institutions and the promotion of a modern, democratic and market-oriented society in which the principles for basic human freedoms and ethnic diversity are respected".

The ongoing projects under the Project Cycle 2014-2015 are in full compliance with our Country Programme Framework for the period 2013-2017. I avail myself of the opportunity to express our appreciation for the overall assistance provided by the TC Department in the implementation of our Programme. Republic of Macedonia has also been and still is

participating extensively in regional and interregional TC projects in order to complement national activities dealing in particular with nuclear institution and human resource development, human health, radiation protection, and nuclear applications. In addition, the country has actively contributed to the TC programme by hosting workshops, scientific visits, fellowships, and by offering its expertise to other Member States such as in the areas of nuclear security, human health, food safety, and veterinary medicine.

Within the next Technical Cooperation Project Cycle 2016-2017, National project on Preparation Activities for Making a Decision on entering into New Nuclear Energy in Macedonia, Phase 1, Part II was preliminary approved by the Agency, and the final acceptance by the Board of Governors is duly expected by the end of November this year. Namely, country has prepared a National Strategy of Energy Development for the period 2008-2020, with a vision up to 2030, whereas one of the options for meeting electrical energy demand in 2030 and beyond is to use nuclear power in addition to other energy sources. In order to accomplish this goal the further financial assistance and technical help by the Agency are required to properly implement all of the steps of this work, to perform assessment of the work plan and results, and to ensure that the programme is in compliance with international and IAEA guidelines and requirements in all necessary areas.

The application of nuclear technologies in the field of medicine is always considered as extremely important for improving health services. With substantial governmental cost sharing, a national TC project is currently being implemented that aims at introducing Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in clinical practice. The introduction should be followed up in the mid-term by using the newly established diagnostic capabilities to further develop therapeutic procedures in nuclear medicine.

The other National project which has been preliminary approved by the Agency within the next Project Cycle 2016-2017 is the Introduction of a SPECT/CT hybrid imaging at the Institute of Pathophysiology and Nuclear Medicine in Skopje, as a very good opportunity to develop further nuclear medicine in university clinic settings, to make it sustainable and to improve diagnostic imaging in public healthcare system.

Radiotherapy practice at the University Clinic of Radiotherapy and Oncology in Skopje has been upgraded with TC support and the clinic was recommended as a Centre of Competence following a QUATRO mission by Agency experts. As it is the only radiotherapy centre in the country, it is planned to expand the capacity for cancer treatment both at the clinic and in the region, whereby the clinic shall serve as the main training provider.

The goals achieved through the activities of the ongoing project on Strengthening 3D Conformal and Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy will be further improved via the third National project within the new Project Cycle with title: Strengthening Brachytherapy and Advanced External Beam Therapy Techniques at the University Clinic of Radiotherapy and Oncology in Skopje, as well.

My country gives full support to the Annual Report of the Agency for 2014 and to the Budget planned for 2016.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, allow me, once again, to reiterate our full support to the Agency's commitment to continue its activities in promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of all nations. The Republic of Macedonia will continue with its active partnership for the future IAEA activities aiming to fulfill its statutory obligations.

Thank you, Mr. President.