



European Union

**EU Statement on
Agenda item 3: Nuclear security**

**Board of Governors
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 13-17 September 2021

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: The Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Iceland+, Norway+, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and San Marino.

We commend Director General Grossi, Deputy Director General Evrard and their staff for compiling the annual Nuclear Security Report, which once again showcases the important work that has been conducted over the course of 2020 and in a most challenging period. The Agency was nevertheless able to implement nuclear security activities and novel working methods in order to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the planned activities.

We thank the Secretariat for its effective work in preparation of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan (NSP) 2022-2025, including having held a series of informal consultations with Member States, thereby implementing the mandate given to it by the General Conference. We welcome the finalisation by consensus of this important forward-looking document.

The EU fully supports the central role of the IAEA in promoting, sustaining and strengthening the global nuclear security regime. We encourage the Agency to further improve its guidance and instruments to provide technical assistance to Member States, and to continue to facilitate international cooperation. These activities have significantly helped to enhance nuclear security culture over the past 20 years and these efforts must continue.

The EU commends the Agency for its work with Member States to review States' nuclear security regimes and to identify areas where they need to be strengthened through, among other things, Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs). The EU remains of the

* Candidate Countries The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

view that improved nuclear security serves to facilitate the development of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, not to hamper technical cooperation. The EU remains committed to this goal. The EU also encourages the Agency and the Member States to continue active implementation of the international peer review and advisory services.

The Agency particularly demonstrated its central role in facilitating international cooperation by organizing the third International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS 2020). The ICONS 2020 Ministerial Declaration reiterates our commitment to sustaining and strengthening the security of nuclear and other radioactive material and facilities, and recognizes the central and coordinating role of the IAEA in this regard.

Madam Chair,

We underline the need for timely, reliable and sufficient resources for the Agency to implement its nuclear security activities, including from the Nuclear Security Fund and Regular Budget. The EU and its Member States remain major donors to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. Nearly €60 million has been allocated for the period of 2005–2023 through eight successive EU Council Decisions alone. We further encourage Member States to support this Fund and call on the IAEA to organise donor coordination meetings to enhance synergies in its spending.

The EU and its Member States strongly support the continued work of the Agency in the development and updating of nuclear security guidance to address and reflect relevant aspects such as

- security of radioactive materials,
- transport security,
- nuclear security culture,
- computer security,
- insider threats.

We welcome the IAEA's efforts to address the challenges raised by the nuclear safety and security interface and in particular the cross-committees work undertaken by the Interface Group to ensure consistency between publications issued by the Safety Standards Committees and the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee where safety-security interfaces occur.

We also highlight the importance of combating illicit trafficking, and welcome a more systematic use of the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database.

We support the ongoing work performed by the Agency to provide Member States with relevant security principles for the new nuclear technologies, with particular reference to medium and small modular reactors and stress the importance to integrate them already in the design stage.

We welcome the Agency's initiative, in close consultation with Member States, to develop and establish the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre at Seibersdorf. We encourage the Secretariat to consider all aspects, including available financial resources related to the long-term sustainability of the Centre, with a view to complementing the activities of the International Network for Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSC Network) without duplication and overlap. And we are looking forward to engaging in further discussions on this issue.

We reaffirm our commitment to promoting the recommendations of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its related guidances. We take note of the revised process and encourage Member States to consider its endorsement for voluntary implementation.

We welcome the work done by the Agency to promote universal adherence to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) and we express our satisfaction that the Parties agreed to convene the Conference of the Parties to the A/CPPNM at the end of March 2022. We call upon all Member States which have not yet done so, to complete their adhesion to the CPPNM and its Amendment, or to the Amendment to the CPPNM.

With these comments, Madam Chair, the EU takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2021 as contained in GOV/2021/35 and of the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025 as contained in GOV/2021/34.

Thank you, Madam Chair.