



Check Against Delivery

**STATEMENT**

**by Ms. MIRJANA RADENKOVIĆ**

**Director of the Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency**

**at IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety**

**Vienna, 20-24 June 2011**

Mr. President, Your Excellencies,

Mr. Director General, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for the invitation to address to this very important conference.

The Republic of Serbia express sympathy, solidarity and support for the people of **Japan** over the devastating earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011 and consequences of the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

We recognize the concerns and anxiety on the safety aspects of the use of nuclear power and the need of international community to enhance the knowledge and improve the international standards on nuclear safety. We consider **the role of IAEA** as central in strengthening the global nuclear safety regime. Its efforts in promotion of international cooperation and expertise and assistance in the field of nuclear safety and security are essential for supporting the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies.

I would like to emphasize the need of continuous review and improvement of nuclear infrastructure and nuclear safety culture in States with nuclear power programs in order to ensure implementation of the enhanced international standards of nuclear safety. There is a growing need for timely, transparent and correct information and adequate reaction of the responsible authorities.

On its way to achieving a full compatibility with the IAEA and the EC recommendations and standards in the field of nuclear safety and security, the Republic of Serbia puts a lot of efforts to provide the instruments for legislative and regulative framework.

Mr. President,

**Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency** as independent regulatory body in the field of radiation protection and nuclear safety was established. Apart from developing and introducing a new set of national regulations, a number of them being on nuclear safety, the Agency is implementing provisions of the already enacted conventions, as well as preparing accession to the international legal instruments where Serbia is not yet a party.

Therefore, procedures for the Governmental approval for adhering to **Convention on Nuclear Safety** and the **Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Radioactive Waste Management** are underway. Accession and full implementation of these conventions should trigger a further strengthening of the national safety mechanisms and instruments imposing the more advanced responsibilities and instruments towards an enhanced national and global safety.

We are on our way to strengthen the national system for emergency preparedness and response as well, including cooperation with relevant national and international organizations and regulatory authorities.

Let me use this opportunity to stress that the Republic of Serbia, together with the IAEA as an active partner and coordinator and with the assistance of numerous international partners has successfully closed the case of its spent nuclear fuel repatriation to Russian Federation in December last year.

Finally, we believe that the comprehensive safety assessment and lessons learned from Fukushima Daiichi NPP accident will be valuable output to be used for further thorough review of nuclear safety standards, especially those pertaining to multiple severe natural hazards, where again IAEA should be the leading and coordinating partner.

The Republic of Serbia is ready to actively participate in that process.

I thank you, Mr. President.