

**Statement of the Albanian Delegation**  
**International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
**St. Petersburg, 28 June 2011**  
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**Albania**

*Honourable Mr. President,*  
*Distinguished delegates,*  
*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the organization of this important activity.

Many IAEA Member States consider nuclear power as a viable option in meeting their energy needs. Nuclear power contributes significantly to global electricity generation. The Albanian Government considers the safe and secure nuclear power, as a real, reasonable and environmentally friendly alternative, to be utterly considered.

The Albanian Government aims to increase the contribution of low pollution and low Greenhouse Gas (GHG) sources of energy in the future. The Government of Albania is contemplating the option of using the nuclear technology for power generation, as part of its energy portfolio. We are convinced on the goodness of diversifying the sources of energy and electricity supply, with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of the domestic energy system due to changes in rainfall and climate. In this context, the Albanian National Strategy on Energy aims to increase the energy supply and its sustainability, security and the energy efficiency, as well as the diversification of energy sources and the use of renewables.

Albania has recently expressed interest in exploring the nuclear power option among other available environmentally friendly sources of energy generation. To this purpose, the Government of Albania established in 2010 the National Nuclear Agency (NNA). It is the agency in charge, responsible to guide and coordinate all activities, including the legal and regulatory framework, needed to create the necessary infrastructure, related to the development of a National Nuclear Programme. Taking into consideration the nuclear as an option for the electricity generation, the Albanian National Nuclear Agency needs to carry out comprehensive energy system analysis, considering, long-term demand and supply issues, as well as the regional market requests. NNA has to pay particular attention, in order to ensure that all provisions, especially those related to the safety and security, comply with relevant international conventions, IAEA standards, as well as with its bilateral agreements and the EU acquis.

Actually an IAEA TC Europe National Project (2012-2013) "Supporting a Safe and Sustainable Electricity Supply" is successfully being implemented. It is of a great pleasure for me to inform the audience, that different Albanian specialized agencies are already involved in the framework of this Project, and the benefit from this Project is real and will be an adjoin value. All conclusions deriving

from this National Project, and others to be fulfilled, will give a strong support to the Government of Albania to take a knowledgeable decision on the introduction of the nuclear power.

As part of the intention to investigate the nuclear option among other potential sources of lowest GHG energy and electricity generation, in the frame of its energy mix, in order to successfully face the constantly increasing electricity demand in the region, for the Albanian Government it is of a paramount importance that, inter alias,

- a detailed assessment of long-term energy and electricity needs and potential energy supply options has to be conducted;
- roles and responsibilities of all key stakeholders, foreseen, in a mid and long-term prospective, to be involved in the National Nuclear Programme, have to be clearly defined and,
- a capacities building process has to take place, in the support of the National Nuclear Programme.

The IAEA TC Programme, as well as other specialized international institutions will be asked to assist and decisively ensure that the process will be carried out in a safe and transparent manner, in accordance with internationally accepted safety standards and sound management procedures.

***Mr. President,***

More than two years since the Fukushima's accident in Japan, the global nuclear power industry is "beginning to put the accident behind" and is looking forward to the future.

The Albanian Government took note that, everywhere in the world, the public confidence related to the safety of nuclear power was deeply shaken by the Fukushima accident. During the 2011 Ministerial Conference in Vienna, the Albanian Delegation strongly supported the IAEA Action Plan, launched by the Director General, Mr. Amano. All five points of this Action Plan are and will be considered, in due time, by the Albanian Government through its specialized institutions.

We are convinced and believe that the above-mentioned Action Plan has played and will continue to play an important role, helping to make a good progress in winning back the public confidence. We are aware that nuclear power is and will be an indispensable solution to fulfil the increasing energy and electricity, as part of, till now known, environmentally friendly sources.

We also are considering all new nuclear technologies, expected to be operative in the next coming years, and especially, considering the peculiarities Albania has, the opportunities given by Small and Medium Size Nuclear Reactors. On the other hand, we are conscious that the nuclear technology transfer and implementation is a long process and the Agency's cooperation and assistance, as well as other opportunities of international assistance and cooperation, are and will be required for many years to come.

Meanwhile, the Parliament of Albania has ratified the "Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Republic of Albania and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to all Nuclear Activities in Albania". The National Nuclear Agency is the institution responsible, appointed by the

Albanian Government, to implement all legal and institutional obligations. It has recently been ratified by the Albanian Parliament the Amendment 2005 to the "Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.

I am concluding my speech, being confident that this Ministerial Conference in St. Petersburg will give a great contribution and will constitute a further strong support for the nuclear power, with the emphasis on the way forward.

*Thank you all*