STATEMENT

BY

THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

H.E. Mr. Mario Nobilo
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

*High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security*

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Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia allow me to express my pleasure at being here with you, for this important meeting. To strengthen nuclear safety and security is our common interests, and we need to join our efforts. All countries should pay more attention to the nuclear safety and security issues, perform the related international obligations, strengthen the relevant domestic legislation and supervision and management mechanism, to take effective measures to protect its nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, to strengthen export control and improve nuclear safety ability, and conscientiously strengthen existing nuclear safety international law framework.

Also, all countries should make full use of existing multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanism and channel, sharing nuclear safety experience and enhancing information communication and enforcement cooperation, and supporting the work of International Atomic Energy Agency in nuclear safety field where Agency play a leading role.

The Republic of Croatia attaches great importance to nuclear safety and security. The Republic of Croatia is a state party and active participant in all the major international treaties and conventions relating to the non-proliferation. Croatia firmly believes that adherence to multilateral non-proliferation treaties, as well as participation in informal non-proliferation initiatives are indispensable part of non-proliferation efforts. All those mechanisms, including workshops and exercises, have contributed to enhancing our national performance particularly in upgrading our export control and to creating valuable networks of partner states by strengthening international cooperation and capacities in that respect.
The NPT, based on the three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, represents a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security and stability. It is our duty to maintain and strengthen its authority and integrity, to continue to advocate its universality. Croatia fully supports the NPT and all its three mutually reinforcing pillars.

Development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should not be a privilege of the few, but a right for all countries, providing they exercise transparency and responsibility towards international non-proliferation instruments, and fully comply with the NPT and its safeguards instruments.

In this respect, Croatia recognizes the importance of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with IAEA as a verification standard under the NPT. We strongly advocate strengthening of this system and call upon all States Parties to the NPT to conclude and bring into force Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocols with the IAEA. Croatia encourages the work of the IAEA on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including assurances of nuclear supply, as effective means of addressing the expanded need for nuclear fuel service.

Croatia has consistently advocated the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons. We also welcome the steps taken to conclude nuclear weapons free zone treaties enhancing regional and global security.

Croatia has in place legislative and operative procedures with regard to non-proliferation, export control, nuclear safety and import and export of weapons and other military equipment. A special consideration has been given to legislation in the nuclear field. Croatian laws and regulations on nuclear safety and security are in accordance with EU legislation.
Republic of Croatia supports and advocates universalisation of relevant standards and instruments of the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding nuclear safety and calls upon those States that have not yet joined the following conventions to do so as soon as possible: Convention on Nuclear Safety, Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan has revealed certain deficiencies in the international legal regime for early provision of information on nuclear accidents which is regulated principally by the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. In this connection, Croatia supports the initiative for amending the Convention. In addition, we believe that cooperation under this Convention must be intensified. Furthermore, it is necessary to encourage the conclusion of bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries as well as national data exchange system for timely warning of nuclear accident.

Nuclear safety is primarily the responsibility of State, but the same time, nuclear accidents may have trans-boundary effects and international community should act jointly to avoid any future accidents. The Fukushima accident has taught us that safety vulnerabilities are now apparent and should be addressed promptly. We have to learn from the Fukushima accident as many lessons as possible and act accordingly.

Taking into account that ultimate responsibility for nuclear safety is in the hands of State, Croatia specially welcomes the conduct of comprehensive risk and safety assessments of operating nuclear power plants. In the same vein, Croatia emphasises that international community must ensure that countries moving ahead with nuclear construction can be successful in ensuring safety.
I believe that as long as we further build consensus, in the spirit of mutual benefit and win-win results, universal participation and cooperation, we would be able to effectively deal with nuclear security challenges, comprehensively promote sustainable development, for a lasting world peace and common prosperity.

Thank you.