

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. GERGANA KARADJOVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA TO THE UN IN NEW YORK
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA
TO THE ELEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT) IN 2026
MAIN COMMITTEE III**

Mr. Chair,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add a few national remarks.

Bulgaria reiterates the equal importance of all three NPT pillars which are mutually reinforcing and contribute to the global peace, security, and stability. We also reiterate our support for the inalienable right of all States Parties to develop, research, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with Article IV of the Treaty and all safety, security, and non-proliferation norms.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy and technologies can deliver tangible results to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bulgaria reaffirms IAEA's central role in this regard and strongly supports the Agency's important work and its safeguards system as a fundamental component of the NPT regime. As a committed State Party, we welcome all IAEA activities that enhance nuclear safety and security and promote the benefits of nuclear energy, science and technology in addressing a wide variety of global socio-economic development needs. We support and participate in IAEA's Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative and follow the developments in particular in SMR technology.

Mr. Chair,

Bulgaria welcomes this year's second edition of the Nuclear Energy Summit as the most important political event in the area of nuclear energy. We support the commitment to nuclear energy as a safe, secure, and reliable source of electricity generation and a firm backbone for low carbon energy systems. As a party to all conventions under IAEA auspices, we call on all States to fully adhere to the international nuclear safety and security instruments. Bulgaria is in full compliance with its respective obligations and participates actively in the meetings under these instruments, advocating for the improved effectiveness and efficiency of their reviews. We underline the importance of the universalization of CPPNM and look forward to the second Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Safety and security of the nuclear facilities is a major factor for the development of nuclear energy. Let me reiterate in this respect our strong condemnation of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine that poses serious threat to the safety and security of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, and in particular the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. We resolutely support the IAEA and its Director General's tireless efforts to monitor the situation at ZNPP and other Ukrainian nuclear sites, as well as electrical substations, and to provide objective

information, advice, technical assistance and support to Ukraine. We urge Russia to cease all actions against and at Ukrainian nuclear facilities and return full control of the ZNPP to the rightful Ukrainian authorities.

Mr. Chair,

Nuclear power is a significant component of Bulgaria's energy balance, under conditions of high technology, production efficiency, and maintaining high level of nuclear safety, security, and radiation protection. Our top priority is the implementation of all possible measures to prevent the diversion of nuclear material for non-authorized purposes, including through the strict implementation of Bulgaria's obligations under IAEA safeguards system. This is evidenced by the number of successfully conducted missions by the IAEA and EURATOM on the safety and safeguards compliance of Bulgaria's nuclear material.

We strongly support IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme as the key mechanism for transferring nuclear knowledge and technology, building capacities and facilitating expertise exchanges among Member States. Bulgaria is an active TCP member, a regular financial contributor notably to the ZODIAC Initiative, and participates in various national and regional TCP projects. Initiatives like ZODIAC, NUTEC, and "Rays of Hope" are exemplary of IAEA's engagement in the global efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that Bulgaria will continue to be a constructive and reliable partner in all activities that effectively contribute to the implementation of IAEA's main mission to promote the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, to enhance nuclear safety and security, and to verify that nuclear energy is not used for military purposes.

Thank you.