

S T A T E M E N T

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Mr./Madam President,

Distinguished Delegates,

We congratulate the President of the General Conference on his/her election and wish the conference much success.

We highly appreciate the leadership of IAEA Director General Grossi and the efforts of the IAEA team in ensuring the effective conduct of the Conference.

Azerbaijan places significant emphasis on the Agency's activities in key areas such as nuclear energy, nuclear security, and safety. We actively engage in international dialogue on these issues.

Mr./Madam President,

This year marks a particularly significant period for Azerbaijan's collaboration with the IAEA, as we are set to host COP29.

We consider nuclear energy an essential resource for meeting the world's growing energy needs while supporting a cleaner, more sustainable future. The inclusion of nuclear energy in the Global Stocktake at COP28 as a means of achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions was indeed a historic milestone. This development is a testament to the collective progress made in ensuring the safety and security of nuclear energy and highlights the instrumental role of the IAEA. The IAEA's steps focusing on the environmental impacts of nuclear energy are commendable and deserve our full support.

As the host country for COP29, we are committed to spearheading efforts to achieve tangible outcomes at this high-profile event, which will be held in Baku later this year. Ensuring the inclusion of facilitated and affordable nuclear energy technologies in the resource deliberations of the COP process is essential. In this regard, we look forward to the valuable input the Agency will provide at this global conference, including the establishment of a dedicated pavilion to highlight the role of nuclear energy in addressing climate change.

Mr./Madam President,

We appreciate the Technical Cooperation mechanism of the IAEA, which has significantly benefited Azerbaijan across various fields. This includes advancements in nuclear medicine, agriculture, environmental protection, and nuclear safety. In particular, I am pleased to announce that Azerbaijan and the IAEA have successfully concluded the next cycle of the Country Programme Framework, which we hope will be officially signed next week. The next CPF will further strengthen our cooperation in key areas, including nuclear energy, medical applications, agriculture, environmental protection, and nuclear safety. Of special importance to us is our potential cooperation with the IAEA in the field of demining, a matter of great relevance as we continue to rehabilitate our devastated and landmine-contaminated territories that were liberated after three decades of Armenian occupation.

Mr./Madam President,

Azerbaijan remains concerned about the safety risks associated with the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant in Armenia. This NPP was commissioned during 1976-1980 in a seismically active region, which has been a point of concern regarding its safety. In the event of an earthquake, the wear and tear and outdated technologies of the Metsamor NPP could lead to a major disaster on a regional scale, causing significant harm to human lives and the environment. Once again, we call upon Armenia to comply with the recommendations of the Agency, and take necessary measures in line with its international obligations.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Azerbaijan's commitment to continuing its support and maintaining close cooperation with the Agency.

Thank you for your attention.