

**Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future
delivered by Ambassador Qaya Mammadov, Head of Department for Political-
Military Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Vienna, 21 May 2024

Dear Co-Presidents,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deliver this statement on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who regrets being unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

We join other delegations in extending our heartfelt condolences to the government and people of our brotherly neighboring nation, Iran, on the tragic helicopter incident that led to the deaths of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Governor of East Azerbaijan Province Malek Rahmati, Friday Prayer Imam of the city of Tabriz Muhammad Ali Ale-Hashem, and others accompanying them.

Excellencies,

We would like to express our appreciation to the Republic of Kazakhstan and Australia for their able co-presidencies in this important Conference.

We also appreciate the efforts of the IAEA Director General and his able team in the preparation and conduct of the conference.

Azerbaijan considers nuclear security as one of the cornerstones of global security. We have taken appropriate measures at the national level and joined international efforts to support nuclear security initiatives.

Azerbaijan has acceded to major international legal framework documents regulating nuclear security, including Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Moreover, our country applies the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

At the national level, Azerbaijan benefits from the peaceful use of nuclear technology in various fields and has put in place effective mechanisms to address nuclear security. We have developed a solid and comprehensive national export control regime, with national legislation conforming to international principles and standards.

Our country has also established an effective interagency process paving the way for implementation of international obligations in an efficient and operational manner.

Azerbaijan has achieved a successful cooperation with the IAEA on various aspects of the peaceful use of nuclear technologies. The issue of nuclear security is an important element of our cooperation with the Agency.

We recognize and commend the key role of the IAEA in developing nuclear safety and security regulations and standards, and appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Agency through its numerous steps, including the Atoms4Food and Atoms4Climate initiatives.

Distinguished participants,

Since the last International Conference on Nuclear Security held in 2020, the international security landscape has undergone certain changes and shifts, bringing new opportunities and challenges alike. We firmly believe that nuclear security should never be compromised. In this context, we emphasize the crucial importance of excluding any danger or threat against all types of civilian critical infrastructure, whether nuclear or otherwise, especially those compromise of which may cause mass casualties.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The inclusion of nuclear energy in the Global Stocktake at the previous UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) held last year in the UAE as a means “for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions” was indeed a historic milestone. This development is a testament to the progress made collectively in ensuring the safety and security of nuclear energy and highlights the instrumental role of the IAEA. As the international community explores expanded use of nuclear energy, it is imperative that we redouble our efforts to address nuclear security.

In this regard, we anticipate active contributions from the IAEA to deliberations during this year’s UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) to be held in Azerbaijan. Additionally, we look forward to practical cooperation with the IAEA to ensure the relevant aspect of security of COP29, leveraging Agency’s extensive expertise in nuclear security of mass public events.

Thank you.