

**National Statement by the Republic of Moldova
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts
10–14 February 2020, Vienna, Austria**

Presented by Mr. Ion Apostol,
Director of the National Agency
for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to offer my congratulations to Rafael Mariano Grossi on his appointment as the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I wish you/him success in implementing IAEA's Atoms for Peace and Development mandate.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Moldova strongly supports the International Atomic Energy Agency's role in strengthening the global nuclear security architecture and in leading the coordination of nuclear security activities among Member States, as well as international organizations and initiatives.

The Republic of Moldova as an active participant in the international nuclear security regime and we are members of the legally binding instruments in the area - including: the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Amendment to it – as well as the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We also adhere to nonbinding international undertakings and give them legal force in our domestic context. In 2019, our country became a party to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). This action proves our commitment towards strengthening the global and local capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism and achieving the goals and tasks of promoting international security.

In spite of the obvious difficulties, we continue our efforts in maintaining and developing cooperation in the field of nuclear and radiological security with authorities in the Transnistrian region. As it will be known, the Transnistrian region is uncontrolled by official authorities. Our cooperation to ensure control over nuclear and radioactive materials in spite of unresolved disputes over territorial control underlines how important nuclear and radiological security is to my Government.

Republic of Moldova closely cooperates with the IAEA and other partner countries on the issues related to nuclear security. I would like to stress the importance of the IAEA's Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans for assisting states to develop overall plan for bringing nuclear security regime in accordance with the IAEA requirements. In 2017, the Republic of Moldova together with the IAEA have reviewed the Moldovan INSSP and set up the joint action plan for achieving an effective and sustainable national nuclear security regime.

Starting with 2018, the Republic of Moldova jointly with IAEA Division of Nuclear Security are implementing the project on “Enhancing the security of radioactive material in use, storage and transport in the Republic of Moldova”, funded under the Nuclear Security Fund Contribution of Germany. In October 2019 we succeeded to perform works for decommissioning of outdated installation with high activity radioactive sources, which was located in Tiraspol city, Transnistrian region. The “Issledovateli” installation was transported to the National Radioactive Waste Management Company in Chisinau for its storage in safe and secure conditions. This project also assists our country to achieve the set goal to bring national legal and regulatory framework in accordance with IAEA nuclear security requirements, as well as human resources development in nuclear security.

Jointly with Swedish Radiation Safety Authority and the UK Department for Energy, Industry and Business, we continue works on ensuring physical protection of radioactive waste storage facility constructing the security barriers on facility’s perimeter. During the last seven years, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority supports our activities in searching and regaining control over orphan radioactive sources, including Transnistrian region. Since the IAEA nuclear security conference in 2016 Conference under the framework of this project were put under regulatory control 941 radioactive sources, over 200 of these were removed from Transnistrian region in 2019. I find it important to mention these figures. Often people think that nuclear security is about distant problems. My country’s work and cooperation with Sweden on the collection of radioactive materials shown that these challenges are real - and can be solved.

In addition, the Republic of Moldova in partnership with NNSA Office of Radiological Security of the U.S. Department of Energy, with the scope to reduce the risk of radiological terrorism, initiated project on removing an irradiator containing high activity radioactive sources and replacing it with a non-radioactive source-based alternative technology. The U.S. Department of Energy is a reliable partner for more than 15 years in implementing the highest standard of security and sustainability consistent with international guidelines at the sites containing high activity radioactive sources in the Republic of Moldova.

Let me express our country’s gratitude to the IAEA, the U.S. Government, the Government of Sweden, the UK and the German Federal Government for their great support to maintaining and developing the Moldovan nuclear security regime - and for providing security for our people.

Thank you for your attention.