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Communication dated 7 October 2016 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 60th regular session of the General Conference

1. The Director General has received a communication dated 7 October 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 60th regular session of the General Conference.
2. The communication and, as requested by the Permanent Mission, its attachment are circulated herewith for information.

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**



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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and has the honour to enclose herewith Turkey's reaction to the document entitled "Communication dated 29 September 2016 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 60th regular session of the General Conference", circulated by the Secretariat on 30 September 2016, in document GC (60)/INF/12.

The Secretariat is kindly requested to distribute the enclosed letter as an official document of the 60th session General Conference and publish it on the General Conference website.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 7 October 2016.



Encl.
Letter (2pgs.)

Secretariat of the
International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA, Vienna



3 October 2016

Mr. Director General,

I have the honor to present to Your Excellency our reaction to the groundless allegations contained in the "Communication dated 29 September 2016 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 60th regular session of the General Conference", circulated by the Secretariat on 30 September 2016, in document GC (60)/INF/12.

It is unfortunate that, the emphasis in our national statement, the text of which is available on the General Conference website, on the importance attributed by Turkey to global nuclear safety, with a particular reference to an old nuclear power plant (NPP), vis-a-vis Metzamor, situated just across from its border in a politically fragile and natural disaster prone region, is regarded as politically motivated allegations by Armenia.

Contrary to Armenia's depiction of Turkey's approach to the matter, the points made in our national statement are legitimate and well substantiated, and they cannot be dismissed by attempts to present them out of context. The safety issues stemming from the Metzamor NPP fall squarely within the framework of the global concerns for nuclear safety that are voiced more and more openly following the Fukushima accident. I would like to point to the various General Conference resolutions dealing with enhancing nuclear safety, which contain specific measures to improve safety of old NPPs in the light of lessons learned from the Fukushima incident.

In this context, Turkey regards the very real risks of keeping the said NPP online, let alone extending its operational life, from a nuclear safety and nuclear security perspective. Not only is the Metzamor plant is old and dilapidated, but it is also located on a seismic and volcanic zone. As such, Turkey and the whole region have substantial shared stakes in the future of the Metzamor NPP. As the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Berat Albayrak underscored in his statement, we cannot afford another disaster in such a volatile region.

HE Yukiya AMANO
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Furthermore, it is also unfortunate that the letter of the Permanent Representation of Armenia also puts forward issues that are not within the mandate or competence of the IAEA. However, in order not to let the accusations against Turkey go unanswered, I would like to remind that Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the Republic of Armenia already on 16 December 1991 and also the country that invited Armenia to become a founding member of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on 25 June 1992. Turkey wants neither the isolation of Armenia nor its denial from regional cooperation; nor does it, in the words of the Armenian Permanent Representation, "wage economic and diplomatic warfare against Armenia". Quite the contrary, Turkey wants normalization of relations in the region which can be possible only with the constructive participation of Armenia.

I will be grateful if this letter could be circulated to IAEA member states under the established procedures as reply to the document GC(60)/INF/12.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



E. Birnur FERTEKLİGİL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative