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Statement by

**HE Mr Boštjan Malovrh, Ambassador,**

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

at the

**UN General Assembly**

**Resolution on the Report of the IAEA**

New York, 9 November 2022

Mr. President,

Slovenia associates with the statement made by the European Union. The following remarks are made in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

Slovenia supports the draft resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As one of the thirty-two states with a fully-fledged civilian nuclear programme, Slovenia has always relied on the important work of the IAEA pertaining to nuclear safety and security. As a member of the Board of Governors Slovenia, also contribute to the important work of the Agency through its activities, and we will certainly continue to do so in the future.

Mr. President,

In our view, the role of the IAEA is indispensable in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear technology, technology transfer to developing countries along with nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

Speaking of nuclear safety, my country is deeply concerned with Russia's war on Ukraine, which has had significant ramifications for global nuclear safety and security. Slovenia condemns in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. We fully support Director General Grossi's efforts to establish a nuclear safety and security protection zone around Zaporizhzhya NPP.

Mr. President,

Slovenia regrets that the 10th Review Conference of NPT did not conclude with the adoption of an outcome document. Nonetheless, the legally binding obligations of the NPT and commitments from the past Review Conferences remain valid. In this regard, the IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT.

We welcome the IAEA’s regular updates on its verification and monitoring activities of Iran’s nuclear commitments under the JCPOA in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). We recall that the Board of Governors in June this year called upon Iran to act on an urgent basis to fulfil its legal obligations. It also strongly urged Iran to cooperate in full with the IAEA without any further delay nor any conditionality to resolve all pending safeguards issues, in accordance with its legally binding obligations under its NPT Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

Slovenia expresses deep concern of the DPRK’s nuclear and ballistic missile activities. We call on the DPRK to take concrete, verified action towards denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, to comply with its obligations under relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and to refrain from nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches. We call all in the region to engage in a meaningful dialogue to prevent escalation and strengthen sustainable peace and security.

Mr. President,

Slovenia commends the transparent manner in which Australia, UK and the US have approached the potential acquisition of conventionally armed and nuclear-powered submarines by Australia. We expect the AUKUS partners will continue to pursue their goals together with the IAEA Secretariat and in full respect of their international obligations.

Finally, Mr. President, as a country benefiting from nuclear energy, we deeply appreciate the Agency's work related to nuclear safety, security and safeguards. We promote sustainable development through our support to the activities of the IAEA on the broad range of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including as a clean and reliable energy source. In this regard, Slovenia is delighted to have been able to financially support the renovation of the Seibersdorf Laboratories.

At the same time, we cherish the activities of the Secretariat in pursuit of gender equality and gender balance. Slovenia has for this reason provided a donation to the Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellowship Programme.

I thank you Mr. President.

