Statement on behalf of the European Union

H.E. Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting
Head of Delegation
Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

UN General Assembly Resolution on the Report of the IAEA

United Nations
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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -
Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

2. We are pleased to support the Resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a report which again reaffirms the ‘indispensable role of the Agency with regard to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and in assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses, as well as in technology transfer and in nuclear verification, safety and security’.

Mr President,

3. The EU is committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and attaches the utmost importance to universalizing the NPT. We call on States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states. Furthermore, the EU is actively contributing to global efforts to seek a safer world for all, and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT, in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all. We underline the vital importance of non-proliferation for achieving these goals.

4. The EU is fully supportive of the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT and would like to reiterate its commitment to the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as agreed by NPT States Parties in a Resolution on the Middle East during the 1995 Review Conference. We therefore regret that the Conference on the establishment of such a zone, due to take place in 2012, was postponed. The EU fully supports the on-going preparations for a successful Conference and in particular the tireless efforts of its Facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland. The progress achieved during the informal gatherings in Switzerland has given some grounds for hope. The EU calls on all States in the region to urgently and proactively engage with the Facilitator and the Co-Conveners with the aim of convening the

* The former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
* Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.
Conference as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region.

5. The 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the role of the IAEA in verifying and assuring the compliance by States with their safeguards obligations and stressed the importance of resolving all cases of non-compliance and of States Parties responding resolutely and effectively in such cases. The EU is deeply concerned with the protracted and serious challenges to the non-proliferation regime, posed by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We note the important developments over the past year in the case of Iran.

6. The EU would like to stress again that the United Nations Security Council, as the final arbiter of international peace and security, has the mandate to take appropriate action in the event of non-compliance with NPT obligations, including safeguards agreements.

7. The Agency’s system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. The measures contained in the Model Additional Protocol form an integral part of the IAEA Safeguards system and, in the EU’s view, Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current IAEA verification standard. The EU calls for their universalisation without delay. The EU has firmly supported the continued evolution of safeguards, and has welcomed the State-Level Concept, with a view to achieving the efficient and effective implementation of IAEA safeguards worldwide. The EU is grateful for the wide support received from the IAEA Member States for the EU-sponsored resolution on ‘Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of Agency Safeguards’ at the recent IAEA General Conference.

Mr. President,

8. The EU attaches importance to the highest standards for nuclear safety being implemented and continuously improved in the EU and promoted internationally. In this context, the Council of the European Union adopted on 8 July 2014 a renewed Directive to strengthen the safety framework for nuclear installations. This Directive sets the objective of preventing accidents and, should they occur, mitigating the consequences, and avoiding early and large radioactive releases. This objective will apply to all new nuclear installations and will be used as a reference for the implementation of safety improvements to existing nuclear installations. We look forward to the Diplomatic Conference next year, where a similar enhancement to the Convention on Nuclear Safety will be discussed.
Mr President,

9. In the framework of its strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the EU is actively supporting UN SCR 1540 and UN SCR 1887 as well as other international initiatives, such as the Global Partnership, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative and the Nuclear Security Summits, which contribute to strengthening nuclear security. Out of €260 million dedicated to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation worldwide, more than €100 million has been allocated to the EU's regional CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative.

10. The EU strongly supports IAEA activities in the area of nuclear security and is, together with its Member States, among the main contributors to the Nuclear Security Fund, having provided around €40 million to date, to the benefit of around 100 countries. We intend to continue to support the IAEA's work. The EU looks forward to the next high-level IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security to take place in December 2016.

11. Effective Physical Protection is of the utmost importance to prevent nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists and proliferators, and to protect nuclear facilities against malicious acts. The EU therefore urges all States that have not yet done so, to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 amendment.

Finally, Mr. President,

12. The European Union attaches the utmost importance to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme and the role of the Agency in the responsible development of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The EU supports both the IAEA, and cooperation with third countries, in this area, with a total amount of some €150 million per year. As further support to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the EU has allocated €225 million over the period 2014 – 2020 for the promotion of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries.

I thank you, Mr. President.