



## **Statement of the Czech Republic**

**IAEA Board of Governors, Vienna, 6 – 10 June 2022**

### **Agenda item 3: The Annual Report for 2021**

Mr. Chair

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the draft Annual Report for 2021. I would like to underline a few key points of interest.

Mr. Chair

The Czech Republic remains to be a strong supporter of nuclear energy. It is our largest low-carbon energy source producing about one third of our electricity and it should play an important role in the future. We fully support the Agency's efforts to highlight the role of nuclear power and other applications in tackling climate change and the Directors General's message that nuclear energy has its role to play in future in our global effort.

To achieve this, the Government of the Czech Republic has recently launched a tender to build a new unit at the Dukovany site. I am also pleased to note that two weeks ago, the State Office for Nuclear Safety has issued a licence for further operation of the second reactor of the Temelín NPP.

Mr. Chair

One of the key areas of an increasing importance is the global effort in the development of advanced nuclear technologies, such as SMRs. We share the view that these promising emerging technologies have the potential to play a substantial role in the future. Earlier this year, the operator of our two NPPs, company CEZ, has set aside a special space at the Temelín NPP site where the first SMR could be built in the future.

The Czech Republic is committed to maintain high level of safety and security and recognizes and appreciates the Agency's unique and crucial role in assisting Member States to achieve this goal. We are of the view that in order to address the growing interest in these new technologies particular attention should be paid to helping Member States in addressing specific features of these technologies in their regulatory and legal frameworks to ensure high level of safety and security while not hindering their efficient deployment.

For this reason, we attach great importance to various initiatives such as the SMR Regulators' Forum and the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI). We are actively engaged in the SMR related discussions and stand ready to step up our efforts in this regard. I am pleased to note that our work towards becoming a member of the SMR Regulators' Forum is on track. We have just applied for a membership and we remain committed to successfully concluding this effort. Another excellent illustration of our engagement is the recently announced cooperation of the

State Office for Nuclear Safety, Finnish regulator STUK and the French regulator ASN in the Joint Early Review of the NUWARD™ Reactor.

Mr. Chair

Regrettably, due to the pandemic, the review meetings of the safety conventions had to be postponed. The contracting parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety have decided, under the leadership of the President, Ms Dana Drábová, that the 8<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting will be organized jointly with the 9<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting in March 2023 and confirmed the Officers and composition of Country Groups.

We would like to use this opportunity and assure all Contracting Parties of our commitment, persistence and efforts to bring success to this conference and encourage them to continue in their constructive engagement and thank them for their support.

With these comments, we join others in recommending submission of the draft of the Annual Report for 2021 to the General Conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.