



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 9-13 September 2019
Agenda Item 8 (a): Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East**

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein*, Norway*, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino.

The EU would like to thank the DG for his report GOV/2019/35 on the Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East.

It remains a strategic priority of the EU to support peace and stability in the entire Middle East. The EU remains committed to the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review Conference. The EU continues to strongly support the Action Plan on the Middle East agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East, as agreed by NPT States Parties. We believe that the path for action as set out in the 2010 Action Plan remains the most promising basis on which to proceed.

[The EU Member States abstained in the vote during the UNGA in December on the Decision on "Convening of a Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction and other Weapons of Mass Destruction" as it had not been agreed by all states of the region while seeking all states of the region to be bound to its outcome.] As stated before the EU is of the view that such Zones should be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among all the states of the region concerned.

We strongly encourage all stakeholders, and especially the states of the region, to engage in meaningful consultations in order to reach agreement as soon as possible on the necessary arrangements for the conference to take place. The process must be inclusive for it to be effective and a proposal that forces the issue risks failure.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

* Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.