

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS FOR WOMEN IN  
NUCLEAR**

Second Special Session of the General Conference  
2 December 2019, Vienna, Austria.

Thank you, Chair.

Mexico has the honour of delivering this statement as Co-Chair of the *Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear*.

Our Group comprises 34 Member States from all eight regional groups, united in our objective of increasing to parity the representation of women in the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Chair,

Realising gender equality through women's empowerment is in our view a crucial management objective, which can support and advance the Agency's effective implementation of its mandate to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

The Group was therefore encouraged by the emphasis placed on gender equality and gender mainstreaming throughout the process to elect a new Director General – a process which included for the first time a female candidate for the post.

And today, we wish to warmly congratulate Rafael Grossi on his appointment as Director General of the Agency.

Chair,

The Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear looks forward to working with Director General Rafael Grossi. We are encouraged by his pledge that women will “have equal opportunity at the IAEA” and his acknowledgement that “further efforts will be needed to reach equality within the Secretariat”.

The Members of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear stand ready and willing to help Director General Grossi accelerate efforts toward achieving gender equality across all functional areas of the Agency's work; across the breadth of the professional employment categories as well as in mainstreaming gender in the Agency's programmes and activities.

Thank you.