

Statements by the Republic of Croatia in the exercise of the right of reply

**at the
74th Session of the General Assembly
Sixth Committee**

Agenda Item 81

Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm

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Mr Chair,

I take the floor to exercise Croatia's right of reply in respect of statement made earlier by representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr Chair,

Croatia is very much aware of the vulnerability of the environment and it pays a great importance to its protection, which represents a global issue that does not recognize boundaries or borders. In this context, it should be recalled that Croatia is a Party to numerous international agreements which regulate environmental issues and its experts are active and key players in relevant international fora that deal with this extremely important issue.

Unfortunately, it is our view that today this important topic has been politicized by Bosnia and Herzegovina, instead of being used for professional discussions on "Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm". As it is well known, this agenda item emanates from work completed by the International Law Commission, and this is the first time that Bosnia and Herzegovina make comments on this topic since the decision by the General Assembly in 2006 to include this item to its agenda.

In this regard, it must be pointed out that Croatia is fully entitled to build, on its territory, a storage facility for its own low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste and institutional waste.

Although no final decision on that matter has been made at this moment, certain activities are being undertaken in this regard.

In this respect, it should be emphasized that the IAEA experts were included in the process of site selection and positively assessed the methodological approach, the multi-criteria assessment and the results of the site selection procedure.

Once the procedure initiates formally, it will include environmental impact assessment and consultation with stakeholders, including both public and neighbouring states.

Finally, let me reiterate that Croatia, as a Party to all relevant international agreements regulating this field, and as EU Member State with high standards incorporated in its legislation and in the *acquis* that it applies, pays utmost attention that all its actions and activities are undertaken in accordance with the highest international standards.

I thank you.