

# Statement of the Staff Council President Imed Zabaar to the IAEA Staff Association Ball 2017

Thank you so much. Good Evening everybody!

It is a great honour and privilege for me to welcome you this evening to the annual IAEA Staff Association Ball. It is truly splendid to see you here in such numbers.

This year, I have just started out on a new two-year term of office as Staff Council President. I had the privilege and honour to be re-elected.

I trust that I can live up to the overwhelming show of support and trust.

I shall do my level best.

Being granted a second term also came as a great relief. Re-election, however, has its up side and a down side. On the upside, I now know that for the next two Agency balls a table will be reserved for me.

On the downside, as my wife has gently reminded me, I will have to buy her two new ball dresses.

All the more so, as the elegance of the Agency Ball increases exponentially each year.

Your brilliance and glamour is matched by ever more fantastic performances, amazing food and the sheer radiance of the Imperial setting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are proud that over the years, our Ball has become so very popular.

Indeed, many of you seem to relish the custom of travelling across the globe to be with us this evening. That really shows your devotion to upholding the glorious Austrian tradition of dancing the night away in the company of friends and colleagues.

Tonight is a happy night for us. Thank you for coming, to be part of this event and celebration!

I extend a special welcome to our guests of honour:

- Her Royal Highness Princess Dina Mired of Jordan; and

- Her Excellency the First Lady of Belize, Ms Kim Simplis Barrow.

I also extend a very warm welcome to the representative of our host country, Ms Muna DUZDAR, State Secretary for Diversity, Public Administration and Digital Agenda in the Austrian Federal Chancellery.

I also welcome Mr Wolfgang Stoeckl, Vice-Chair of the International Civil Service Commission and most particularly, our very own IAEA Director General Mr Yukiya Amano.

Your presence and the very fact that so many of you have come from far and wide underscores the memorability of the event - and, by analogy, the significance of the work of our Organisation.

This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the IAEA. Staff Council looks back with a justified sense of pride to its many achievements and successes over the years. Our common history of endeavour bears testimony to the active involvement and enthusiasm of both the staff and their representatives.

Our Director General has unfailingly emphasized that the IAEA is an organisation of excellence. As Staff Council, we are honoured to be party to that excellence: a major landmark that is very much the outcome of the cumulated commitment and aspirations over the sixty years of common history of all the parties involved – Member States, the Organisation, its staff and their representatives.

On this occasion, I also wish to acknowledge with gratitude the work of my predecessors who laid a firm foundation for the Staff Association's future. I also wish to testify to the crucial role each and every staff representative has played in the success of the Staff Association - from that very first day 60 years ago when our founders set out on the long road ahead.

As we continue down that path, we shall build on their endeavours and strive to achieve excellence in every aspect of our work.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Given our commitment to the mandate of the IAEA and its contribution to peace and development, the IAEA Staff Association Ball over the years has lent generous support to many humanitarian charity projects, both nationally and internationally that have had a positive and sustainable impact. Without a shadow of a doubt, this has not been the work of a single individual; it has always been a combined effort that has paid off well, made a lasting difference in the world and bettered so many lives.

Much of what we have achieved would not have been possible without your support and active participation – as well as the generous donations from our sponsors, to whom our sincere thanks are due.

Especial thanks go to: the City of Vienna; Ferienregion Traunsee – Salzkammergut; the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID); BMW Vienna; and Drei.

Your support is truly appreciated! Thank you!

Our thanks also go to:

Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President of the Republic of Austria

Dr. Michael Häupl, the Mayor of Vienna,

Mr. Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director General,

and the management of the Hofburg.

We also wish to thank all the volunteers, musicians, artists, security officers, catering service and photographers.

A special 'Thank You' must also go to the Ball Organizing Committee, chaired by Elly Wynsford-Brown and assisted by no fewer than 9 members on her team - here on the stage with me.

Lydia Baben, Venecia Blacker, Elodie Broussard, Doris Gludovacz, Kaseza Talengwa Lukumbuzya, Fabien Petit, Alexia Poriki, Pappachan Punnackal, and Anjarika Strohal

They've all worked very hard to make tonight such a success.

You've done a wonderful job!

Our warmest thanks and gratitude also go to Jennifer, our master of ceremonies, who will make our night a true delight. And to all those whom I have not mentioned by name, thank you so much for your part in making our evening an enjoyable one.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, get ready to dance holes in your soles!

Enjoy the Ball! Have fun, and see you again next year!

Thank you!

