**Remarks of General Director of the Rosatom Atomic Energy State Corporation Alexei Likhachev at the ceremony marking the delivery of nuclear fuel to Akkuyu NPP**

**Full transcript of the speech**

**Alexei Likhachev, General Director of the Rosatom Atomic Energy State Corporation:**

President Putin, President Erdogan, colleagues,

Today is a remarkable day which will help promote cooperation in nuclear energy between Russia and Turkiye. Now that new nuclear fuel has been delivered to the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, it has become a nuclear site and the Republic of Turkiye has acquired the status of a country with peaceful nuclear technology.

We have worked hard to make this happen today despite all the challenges and difficulties. Neither the pandemic, nor foreign policy pressures were able to obstruct the construction of the world’s largest nuclear power plant. The credit for this, which cannot be overestimated, is to be given to the leaders of our two countries, who sometimes had to intervene personally to help us resolve certain issues.

Allow me to brief you on the current situation at the site.

Construction on the first unit is nearing completion, with the equipment being assembled at the site. At the second unit, the reactor vessel has been installed. At the third unit, the melt localisation device is being installed. In the fourth unit, reactor housing foundation reinforcement is nearing completion, and work continues on a key piece of equipment for the plant, the low-speed turbines.

The construction of Turkiye’s first nuclear power plant has become a true joint project: over 400 Turkish companies are taking part in it, and we can say that Turkiye now has its own nuclear industry cluster. The experience we have gained through cooperation will allow us to tap the potential of this industry at other sites, including international sites.

Guided by the principles of sustainable development, we always take part in the local peoples’ lives in the regions where we are working. Currently, our main social project in Mersin is the construction of a nuclear power plant town in Silifke. New residential housing, a hotel, a school and a childcare centre will be built there. This will attract local businesses and provide a new impetus for the development of urban life here.

Training and education for the power plant’s personnel is underway. About 300 people have already received educations in the professions needed by the nuclear power industry at Russian universities, undergone hands-on training and joined the project team. Education quotas will also be allocated for the coming academic years.

President Putin, President Erdogan, colleagues,

The service life of this nuclear power plant is at least 100 years, which means that the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant stands a chance of celebrating the bicentenary of the Republic of Turkiye. I am sure this plant will make a contribution to the reliable, and environmentally and economically efficient energy supply of several generations of Turkish people.

Finally, I would like to express our support for the Turkish people, who have had to cope with severe trials this year. I want to assure you that we are always ready to help – in both days of trouble and in happier times.

Again, I want to thank our presidents for the support they have given to this project of global importance.

Thank you very much.