Ambassador Rafael Grossi from Argentina will run for IAEA Director General

Within the framework of the 59th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Argentine government nominated Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi to succeed the current Director General of the Agency, Yukiya Amano.

Grossi is presently Argentine Ambassador in Austria as well as Permanent Representative to International Organizations based in Vienna and the current President of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

As a member of the Argentine diplomatic corps his career was focused on disarmament and nonproliferation affairs. He represented Argentina in a variety of international forums. Grossi held the position of Chief of Staff of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and later served as Director General of Political Coordination of the Argentine Foreign Ministry. More recently he was appointed as Deputy Director General for Political Affairs and Chief of Staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He carried out academic activities such as member of the teaching staff of the NPSGlobal's Regional Postgraduate Course in Global Security, Disarmament and Nonproliferation.
The position of IAEA Director General is elective, therefore the Argentine candidate will compete with others including the current Director General, Amano who seeks a third term. The election for the term 2017-2021 will take place late next year. Taking into account his background and experience, Grossi is perceived and one of the most qualified officials to hold the position.

If elected, Grossi will face difficult challenges including the verification of Iran's nuclear activities under the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), agreed last July 14. In such case he would become the first IAEA Director General from Latin America.

Ahead is the usual process of seeking international support for the nominations. In the case of Grossi, many countries in the region have already given their explicit support.