

**58TH IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE
22-26 SEPTEMBER 2014
STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE
DELIVERED BY
AMBASSADOR FOO KOK JWEE
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
TO THE IAEA**

Mr President
Director General
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

1 Singapore would like to congratulate Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez of Sri Lanka on his election as the President of the 58th IAEA General Conference. We are confident that the General Conference will be a success under his able leadership, and we would like to assure him of Singapore's fullest support. Singapore also extends our warmest welcome to the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu as new members of the IAEA.

Mr President,

2 Several important developments have taken place since the last General Conference. The 3rd Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on Nuclear Non-Proliferation, or NPT, was convened in New York this year. Regrettably, there was no consensus on the recommendations to be submitted to next year's Review Conference. But we hope that all States Parties will continue to engage in constructive dialogue in the run-up to the Review Conference so that we can find ways to narrow the differences. The NPT remains a vital instrument to promote international peace and security, and all three pillars, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, are equally important and mutually reinforcing. States Parties should work closely together for a successful Review Conference to ensure that the NPT remains relevant.

3 We note there have been related developments that are not compatible with either the provisions or the objectives of the NPT. We urge states to abide

strictly to their obligations under the Treaty and for there to be greater effort to promote the universalisation of the NPT. This will help ensure that the NPT regime remains credible and sustainable.

Nuclear Verification and Safeguards

Mr President,

4 There were positive developments on the Iranian nuclear dossier the past year. Singapore was encouraged by the implementation of the Framework of Cooperation by Iran for its first two phases. However, we note that Iran has not implemented two of the five practical measures in the third phase of the Framework of Cooperation. Iran has also not responded to the IAEA's request to propose new practical measures for the next phase. We strongly encourage Iran to implement all agreed measures in good time and in good faith, and that agreement on the next set of practical measures will be reached soon.

5 Singapore notes that the deadline for negotiations between the E3+3 and Iran under the Joint Plan of Action, or JPA, had been extended to 24 November 2014. While we recognise that this is a complex and difficult exercise, we hope that all involved parties will exercise the political will and work constructively to forge a comprehensive and lasting JPA. A positive outcome is good for Iran, the Middle East region and the international community at large. In the interim, we call on Iran to fully comply with and fulfil all obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and IAEA Board of Governors' resolutions.

6 The DPRK's nuclear programme remains an issue of international concern. Singapore urges Pyongyang to take the necessary steps to address the international community's concerns, comply fully with relevant UNSC resolutions, return to the NPT, and resume all cooperation with the IAEA immediately.

Mr President,

7 Nuclear material accountancy and in-field verification must remain the core of the Secretariat's work in safeguards implementation. Singapore reiterates our strong support for the Agency's role in nuclear verification and safeguards implementation. The Agency's work in this area is critical in the establishment of a robust, global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

8 However, the Secretariat cannot carry out its work effectively without the support of Member States. In this regard, we welcome the Agency's clarifications on the State Level Concept, or SLC, as outlined in its Supplementary Document to the Report on the Conceptualisation and Development of Safeguards Implementation at the State Level and its Corrigenda. In particular, the SLC is applicable to all States; and that the implementation of safeguards under the SLC does not entail any additional rights and obligations on the part of either States or the Agency, nor does it entail any modification in the interpretation of existing rights and obligations.

9 We also urge the Secretariat to ensure that the safeguards conclusions drawn by the Agency are based on a meticulous, objective and independent evaluation of all available safeguards-relevant information, and free from political influence. This is an issue of utmost importance to Member States and will ensure the continued credibility of the Agency.

10 In this regard, Singapore welcomes the Secretariat's promise to continue engaging all IAEA Member States in an open dialogue on safeguards matters, including progress in the development and implementation of safeguards under the SLC.

Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Security

Mr President,

11 Singapore has always been a strong proponent of nuclear safety. We note that not all IAEA Member States are Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS). We strongly encourage all remaining Member States to do so, in particular countries embarking on, or already possessing a new nuclear power programme.

12 The 6th Review Meeting of the CNS earlier this year adopted important decisions to strengthen the international nuclear safety framework. One such decision was to convene a Diplomatic Conference to discuss the proposal by Switzerland to amend Article 18 of the Convention. Singapore strongly supports the Swiss proposal because the Fukushima nuclear accident is a reminder of the importance of preventing off-site contamination in the event of nuclear accidents. The Swiss-proposed amendment also seeks to update the Convention which was adopted 20 years ago. We strongly urge all Contracting Parties to do so as well. Nuclear safety is of paramount importance and should not be undermined by commercial or other considerations.

13 Three years have passed since the adoption of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. We understand that the IAEA Secretariat intends to wind down the Action Plan and merge its elements with its regular programmes. We would like to highlight that strengthening nuclear safety is a long term, ongoing effort. We cannot afford to be complacent. We hope the Secretariat will continue to place emphasis on the 12 items in the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

14 In this regard, we look forward to the publication of the IAEA's comprehensive report on the Fukushima nuclear accident later this year. We hope that the Secretariat will provide a comprehensive analysis of the accident and propose recommendations on follow-up actions to prevent such accidents from occurring again.

15 As more countries embark on new nuclear power programmes, or expand existing ones, the international community faces increasing challenges in developing human resources in this field. We should explore how the IAEA and countries with relevant expertise can work together to develop a sustainable and competent pool of nuclear experts. This would benefit countries with existing nuclear power plants as well as to those considering and seeking to embark on a nuclear power programme.

16 In Southeast Asia, efforts have also been made to strengthen cooperation in nuclear safety through collaboration in fields such as emergency preparedness and response, and sharing radiation monitoring data through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Network of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) platform. We would like to express our appreciation to the European Commission for supporting a feasibility study on regional cooperation in emergency preparedness and response in Southeast Asia.

Mr President,

17 Singapore is of the view that international cooperation is of critical importance to strengthen the global nuclear security architecture. To this end, we hope that future discussions on this important subject will involve all relevant countries. It is also essential that *all* nuclear material, whether in civilian or military holdings, are included in these discussions as we strive towards building a robust and comprehensive global nuclear security framework.

The IAEA has a central role to play in coordinating such international efforts and in promoting greater nuclear security.

18 Recognising that legally-binding instruments such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment are important in strengthening nuclear security, my Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong announced at the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March this year that Singapore would accede to the Convention soon. In this regard, I am pleased to inform our colleagues that Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the CPPNM and its instrument of acceptance of its 2005 Amendment at the Treaty Event on Monday 22 September 2014. In doing so, Singapore joins the other Parties to the Convention and the Contracting States to the Amendment in demonstrating our commitment to ensure the protection of nuclear materials and facilities against threats such as terrorism. We strongly encourage Member States that have not yet done so to come on board.

Peaceful Application of Nuclear Science and Technology

Mr President,

19 Singapore has collaborated with the IAEA to provide technical assistance in subjects that are current and relevant to their needs. To date, we have organised 23 scientific visits, 93 fellowship attachments and 29 regional training events in subjects of nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and radiation protection. These joint technical assistance projects support the Agency's efforts to promote nuclear safety as well as showcase the application of nuclear science and technology in development such as healthcare, agriculture and water management resources. Singapore will continue to seek new areas of cooperation with the Agency to provide relevant technical assistance to Member States where needed.

20 Thank you, Mr President.

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