

STATEMENT
by
H.E. Mr. NGUYEN THIEP
Ambassador, Chairperson of the Board of Governors
Head of the Delegation of Viet Nam to the Fifty-Eighth
Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference
(Vienna, Austria, 22-26 September 2014)

Mr. President,

1. First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, to extend our warm congratulations to you on your election as the President of the Fifty-Eighth Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. I am convinced that with your rich experience and distinguished leadership, you will lead the General Conference to a great success.

2. The Delegation of Viet Nam would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and the Republic of Vanuatu as new Member States of the Agency.

3. The Delegation of Viet Nam highly appreciates the commendable efforts and remarkable achievements made by the Agency in the performance of its mandate underpinned by the three main pillars: Safety and Security; Science and Technology; Safeguards and Verification.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

4. Current times present us with many opportunities and challenges and it is incumbent upon us to make the right decisions. Delicate balance

needs to be stricken between difficult choices, for example between fast growth and environmental sustainability. Today (23 September) in New York, the United Nations meet together to discuss one of the greatest challenges of our times, that is how to cope with climate change in an effective way which is also conducive to sustainable development. Development requires a great amount of energy which can help lift 2.4 billion people out of energy poverty. We note the consensus that nuclear energy can help address the need for both development and mitigation of climate change. Choosing the nuclear energy path, we also have to make right decisions on nuclear energy development and nuclear safety and security.

5. Since the promulgation on the 3rd January 2006, the Viet Nam's Strategy for Utilization of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes has been implemented almost 9 years. During that period, although facing many difficulties on economics and infrastructure, the Government of Viet Nam has directed and concentrated necessary resources to achieve the Strategy's objectives.

6. In the non-power field, nuclear applications have been developed and made effective contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. According to a recent report, during period 2010-2013, in Industry, 31 R&D projects and 2 pilot production projects concerning NDT, NCS, TRACER, and industrial irradiation have been carried out. In Agriculture, at present, many new varieties have been created by mutation breeding techniques. In Geology, Hydrology, and Environment, nuclear analytical techniques and radiation measurement techniques have been broadly applied for exploration and evaluation of mineral potential. Health Care is the area where nuclear technology has been applied most broadly. At present, Viet Nam has 23 radiotherapy

units, 24 nuclear medicine departments, 4 oncology hospitals. According to the Detailed Planning for Development and Application of Radiation in Health Care, by 2020 Viet Nam will have 65 radiotherapy units, 39 nuclear medicine departments, 67 radiology units, and a Central Radiation Medicine Hospital established.

7. Regarding nuclear power, Viet Nam continues its nuclear power programme for targets of sustainable development. At present, Site Approval Dossiers and Feasibility Studies for the first two NPPs - Ninh Thuan 1 and Ninh Thuan 2 are being finalized. The preparatory works for Ninh Thuan NPP Projects have received priorities and supports from the Government and the relevant organizations aimed to effectively operate and to ensure the highest standards of safety and emergency preparedness and response in accordance with the IAEA guidance and international experiences.

8. In order to promote nuclear energy application and to ensure safety and security, during past years, along with improving the legal framework, strengthening capacities of national regulatory bodies, the Government of Viet Nam has strengthened organizational and managerial system, at the same time issued mechanisms and policies supporting the development of human resources and national infrastructure. Following the setting up a National Council for Nuclear Safety (April 2010) and National Council for Atomic Energy (May 2013), the establishment of five (5) Sub-Committees under the State Steering Committee of Ninh Thuan Nuclear Power Project were accomplished. These organizations are designed to identify the strategies, policies, priorities, and measures for development and uses of nuclear energy, especially the implementation of Ninh Thuan Nuclear Power Project. In August 2013 the Government of Viet Nam promulgated a *Decree on*

Regulating preferential policies, support for people being dispatched for training in the field of atomic energy, and in August 2014 the Prime Minister issued a *Decision on the implementation of regime of allowances of career incentives for people working in the atomic energy organizations belonged to the MOST.* The Prime Minister has directly instructed important issues, such as Development of national infrastructure for nuclear power, Feasibility study for construction of Center for Nuclear Science and Technology, Plan for training specialists and managers in the nuclear energy field, and Policy for preferential treatment to attract highly qualified professionals working in the field of atomic energy.

9. With regards to the cooperation with the Agency, we note with satisfaction that under the Viet Nam - IAEA Country Framework Programme (CPF) for period 2011-2015, Viet Nam has received the Agency's valuable assistance in carrying out research, development, and application of nuclear energy in agriculture, industry, health care, environment, and nuclear power with emphasizing on the improvement of legal framework, human resources development, safeguards, nuclear safety and security demonstrated by the implementation of the Integrated Work Plan for Building the Nuclear Power Infrastructure in Viet Nam (IWP), the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP), including developing DBT methodology and participating in the International Network of Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSC), planning for establishment of a Technical Support Centre for Nuclear Security and Safeguards, and dispatching the INIR and IRRS missions since 2010 to now. The recommendation and suggestions of the above-mentioned missions are of great value for our development of national Infrastructure for nuclear power.

10. Viet Nam has also participated in the Joint IAEA-EU Project, through which 8 RPMs were installed and put into operation at Noi Bai International Airport since early 2013, contributing to international efforts in combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

11. Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea and the IAEA has started to discussion on actual implementation of the Pilot Project for Radioactive Source Location Tracking System (RADLOT) in Viet Nam, contributing to the security of radioactive sources used for NDT.

12. As a responsible Member State, Viet Nam has fully fulfilled its obligations and commitments to the Agency, including the provision of necessary resources to the TC projects, payments to National Participation Cost (NPC) and Regular Budget, and the contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund of 2014. In collaboration with the Agency, Viet Nam has successfully hosted a number of IAEA/RCA workshops and training courses.

13. In addition to the multilateral cooperation, the bilateral cooperation between Viet Nam and other countries continues to develop and provides Viet Nam with more opportunities in capacity building and receiving experiences and lessons learn for developing a sustainable nuclear energy programme.

14. We share the conviction that adherence to and implementation of international legal instruments related to nuclear energy contribute to the enhancement of international cooperation in the safe, secure, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and non-proliferation. Therefore, during past years, Viet Nam acceded to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (October 2013), and the Proliferation Security Initiative

(20th May 2014). Up to now, Viet Nam became party to the 13 international legal instruments relating to nuclear safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation. Viet Nam also participates in other international initiatives, particularly the Nuclear Security Summits, the latest of which was held in the Hague, the Netherlands, in March this year. These efforts helped strengthened international legal and cooperation frameworks for Viet Nam's further active engagement in areas of great importance to the international community.

15. As Chair of the Board of Governors, during the past year Viet Nam actively contributed to the work of this important body, promoting the spirit of cooperation, collegiality and friendship among Board members. I would like to thank all Board members and IAEA member states for their support and cooperation.

16. In conclusion, Mr. President, the Delegation of Viet Nam wishes to commend and thank the Agency for its cooperation and valuable assistance. We would like to reaffirm Viet Nam's full support to the activities of the Agency in the enhancement and promotion of the application of nuclear science and technology for a world of peace, stability, co-operation and development.

Thank you for your kind attention.