

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY

Statement by Ambassador Wilson Pastor

**Permanent Representative of Ecuador
to the International Organizations in Vienna**

Vienna, 5 December 2016

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Ecuador, allow me to express my gratitude to you and the co-chairs of the Working Group for the preparations for this Conference and for the efforts undertaken to make progress in the negotiations.

I also welcome the initiative of the IAEA to organize this Conference to address the challenges in nuclear security and to provide an inclusive forum where all members of the Agency are represented and can express their ideas and commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to align itself to the Statement of the States of the Latin American and Caribbean Group - GRULAC.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has come to this Conference convinced that coordinated actions and a holistic approach against the risk that nuclear material could be used in unauthorized criminal or intentional acts, are indispensable to face the threat to international security.

While reaffirming the state's responsibility in nuclear security, Ecuador is committed to strengthening the nuclear security regime and in this regard, the role the IAEA in this field.

Consistent with its commitments, my country has updated the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan, a process that involved the Ministries of Security, Defense, Foreign Affairs, Renewable Energy, Risk Management and Health. This joint national effort, which was supported by the IAEA, allowed us to articulate a Plan that responds to the needs of the country and the security challenges.

We are committed to implementing this Plan, convinced that this will provide safer installations and clearer guidelines on the management of nuclear material.

Furthermore, we carried out a review on the international instruments pending ratification in order to achieve consistency with national laws, the relevant Security Council resolutions and other instruments in nuclear matters. In this sense, the IAEA has committed its send a mission for legislative assistance in the first half of 2017.

As a result of this effort, I am pleased to announce that the ratification process of the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material has met all the requirements of the internal legislation and is awaiting approval by the plenary of the General Assembly.

At a regulatory level, the "Technical Standard on the safe management of radioactive waste and disused sealed radioactive sources" has recently been issued, which includes specific guidelines on the radioactive waste management in Ecuador. This standard was prepared in accordance with the IAEA security standards.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country that proclaims peace and universal disarmament and condemns the development and the use of weapons of mass destruction, Ecuador is convinced that the real threat to peace and international security is the very existence of nuclear weapons. In this sense, Ecuador is concerned about the fact that the material used for military purposes constitutes 85% of nuclear material existing in the world and, -being the most sensitive- remains outside of the nuclear security arrangements.

It is regrettable that after several months of intense negotiations, the Ministerial Declaration has failed to send a clear message in this regards, and has left aside a topic of such importance, especially due to the enormous humanitarian consequences and the global effects of any accidental or intentional nuclear detonation.

We maintain our firm position in favor of the full implementation of the three pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), without discrimination and double standards, and we reiterate our concern that, while the objectives of the Treaty in the field of non-proliferation and the exercise of the inalienable right to peaceful use of nuclear energy have been implemented, no progress has been made in achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

Ecuador reiterates its conviction that the only effective guarantee against the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons is its total elimination and prohibition, and will continue to promote nuclear disarmament, complete and verifiable, as a primary objective. In this regard, we welcome the adoption by the First Committee of the General Assembly of the resolution to *take forward the multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations* and to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, aiming at its total elimination. Such instrument is a necessary measure for the nuclear disarmament and would meet the obligations of the States Parties in the NPT as indicated in article VI of the Treaty.

My country is committed at the highest level with beginning of this diplomatic process and we assert our best efforts to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

While renewing our commitment to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, Ecuador will continue to support the essential and independent work of the IAEA, which guarantees the use of nuclear energy in the safest possible manner.

Thank you.