



**STATEMENT BY
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THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
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**Madam President,
Distinguished delegates,**

Introduction

1. My delegation congratulates you, Your Excellency Mrs. Vilawan Mangklatanakul, on your election as President of the 67th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. As a fellow ASEAN Member State, Malaysia shares Thailand's pride in having you presiding over our important deliberations. I assure you of Malaysia's full support and cooperation.
2. My delegation also congratulates Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi on his reappointment as Director General for a second term.
3. Malaysia welcomes The Gambia and Cabo Verde as new Member States of the IAEA.

4. Malaysia remains appreciative of the continuous capital-intensive efforts of the IAEA and, therefore, recognises the paramount importance for the Agency to be provided with sufficient, assured, and predictable resources in order to effectively discharge its mandate. In this regard, all Member States should disburse their financial contributions, in full and on time.

National Nuclear Technology Policy 2030

Madam President,

5. As a manifestation of our unwavering commitment and dedication to advancing the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, Malaysia has launched recently our National Nuclear Technology Policy 2030, on 20th September 2023. This policy marks a significant milestone in our journey towards harnessing the advancements in nuclear technology in meeting our nation's needs, in particular economic development, knowledge generation, and societal well-being.

Nuclear Safety

6. My delegation commends the Agency's tireless efforts in assisting Member States to build and strengthen their capabilities in nuclear safety, including waste safety. As one of the leading countries in implementing the borehole facility for disposal of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources (DSRS), the project in Malaysia has now progressed to the development phase, entailing the construction of the borehole, thanks to the Agency's continuous support.

7. Malaysia has recently established its Nuclear Response Simulation Centre in July 2023. This facility is crucial in developing national readiness and capability to respond to nuclear and radiological events, as well as nuclear security crises and accidents. Malaysia welcomes the utilization of this facility and supports its activities that would be beneficial to the Agency and other Member States.

8. My delegation reiterates its commitment to providing consistent environmental radiation monitoring. At the regional level, Malaysia has participated in a project called “Establishing a Regional Warning Radiation Monitoring Network in ASEAN and Enhancing National Network” that enables us to continuously monitor any increase of radiation level in the environment through the Gamma Dose Rate Monitoring Station (GDRMS) nationwide, both inland and on seawater. This initiative provides the capability for Malaysia and the ASEAN countries for early mitigation action against nuclear accidents, should they occur.

9. My delegation appreciates the IAEA's scientific and technical assessment of Japan's release of treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station into the ocean. It is imperative that the IAEA maintains a proactive stance in addressing this distinctive and intricate issue, and we count on Japan's continued collaborative commitment in this matter. Malaysia reemphasises the significance of conducting comprehensive assessments on environmental and health impacts, and the implementation of transparency measures. These include the sharing of statistical or analytical data with relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that all potential risks are adequately analysed, evaluated and mitigated.

10. My delegation remains deeply concerned about the situation surrounding the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Any nuclear accident at any of Ukraine's nuclear sites would have devastating consequences for the people in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries. Hence, the safety and security of these sites must be ensured, with the ultimate goal of avoiding another nuclear disaster in the country.

Nuclear Security

11. Malaysia has successfully conducted the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) in October 2022. We thank this IAEA's mission for its recommendations and suggestions on improving our nuclear security control regime, which will be fully reviewed and taken into serious consideration for national implementation.

12. Malaysia, through the Nuclear Security Support Centre (NSSC), serves as the regional hub under the Partnership Agreement on the Establishment of a Loaner Pool for Radiation Detection Equipment in Enhancing Support for Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region. Malaysia is honored to have supported the 2022 FIFA World Cup by loaning this equipment to the State of Qatar last year and welcome the Asia Pacific Members to utilize this facility.

13. Malaysia reaffirms the central role of the IAEA in promoting, sustaining and strengthening the global nuclear security architecture. Malaysia welcomes the Agency's preparations for the 2024 International Conference on Nuclear Security and stands ready to

engage and contribute to its successful outcome.

Technical Cooperation

Madam President,

14. Malaysia reemphasizes strong support for the IAEA's continued efforts to strengthen and sustain regional cooperation in Nuclear Science and Technology (NST) education. In this regard, we commend the newly established International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) for enhancing secondary-level students' understanding of NST, under the framework of the Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme. As a member of the INSO Steering Committee, we are committed to contributing expertise, resources, and support to ensure the success of this initiative.

15. In recognizing the importance of nuclear knowledge management in ensuring the safe and peaceful utilization of nuclear technology for sustainable development, we would like to request a Knowledge Management Assist Visit (KMAV) to Malaysia.

16. Malaysia takes great pride in being the designated regional training center in radiation, transport and waste safety, where we have successfully hosted PGEC for the past 17 years, in collaboration with the Agency. Malaysia favourably anticipates the opportunity to host PGEC in 2024, continuing our commitment to advancing radiation protection and safety.

Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications

17. Malaysia remains fully supportive of the IAEA's ongoing efforts to modernize the Seibersdorf's Nuclear Application Laboratories through the ReNuAL2 project in advancing the scientific activities and nuclear applications for Member States. In light of this, Malaysia has made a modest contribution to the ReNuAL2 voluntary fund.

18. Malaysia reiterates its commitment to strengthening cooperation with the Agency and other Member States in order to reap the full benefits of nuclear technology for socioeconomic development. Malaysia is deeply honoured by the re-designation of Nuklear Malaysia as the IAEA Collaborating Centre (ICC) for Research, Development, and Training in Nuclear Sciences and Applications, for another term. With this recognition, we look forward to continuing our sharing of resources, knowledge, and expertise with other Member States.

19. Malaysia commends the various IAEA initiatives and efforts in solving problems and global issues through NUTEC Plastics, ZODIAC, Rays of Hope, and the new initiative Atoms4Food. The Atoms4Food initiative will provide support to Member States in enhancing food production, ensuring food safety, improving agricultural planning, and strengthening nutrition programming by utilizing nuclear and isotopic techniques.

Safeguards and Non-proliferation

20. On safeguards, my delegation conveys our gratitude to the Agency for selecting Malaysia as a pioneer under the Comprehensive

Capacity-Building Initiative for State System of Accounting for Control (SSAC's) and State Authority Responsible for Safeguards (SRA's) Implementation, known as COMPASS, which officially closed on March 2023. We also convey our gratitude to Australia, Finland and Hungary for sharing with us their expertise on safeguards implementation.

21. Malaysia remains gravely concerned over the situation in the Korean Peninsula with the significant increase in the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programme. We urge the concerned parties to resume dialogue to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

22. Regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Malaysia reaffirms its support for the restoration and full implementation of the agreement, and we call on the relevant parties to reengage in sustained dialogue and diplomacy to this end.

23. Malaysia holds the view that it is pertinent for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important regional confidence-building measure and as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Closing

Madam President,

24. In concluding, Malaysia commends the Agency's indispensable support and transparency to the Member States to acquire peaceful uses of nuclear technology to achieve their development objectives and priorities. We reaffirm our commitment to fostering closer cooperation with the Agency, other States and interested partners towards achieving our mutual goals and interests.

Thank you.