

Statement by
H.E. Mrs. Vilawan Mangklatanakul
President of the 67th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference
25 September 2023

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Excellencies,
Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, it is with my profound gratitude and great honor for the trust placed in me to serve as the President of the 67th Regular Session of the General Conference. I take great pride in being only the sixth woman to have been elected to this esteemed position since the establishment of the Agency in 1957. In this prestigious role, I am fully committed to leading our proceedings and deliberations, with your support and cooperation, to a successful conclusion of the Conference.

2. I wish to express my special gratitude to all the members of the Southeast Asia and the Pacific Group, in particular to Australia as its Chair, for their nomination as well as support and encouragement.

3. My deep appreciation also extends to H.E. Ambassador Alessandro Cortese of Italy, for his able stewardship during the past year's Conference, both at its Regular and Special Sessions.

4. I take this opportunity to commend Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi for his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment in steering the works of the Agency. I must also commend the entire staff of the Agency for their valuable works and continued support.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The IAEA holds a pivotal role in accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, as enshrined in its Statute. Over its 67 years of service, the Agency has achieved remarkable success, from fostering cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear

energy to ensuring nuclear safety, security, and safeguards while upholding the norms against nuclear proliferation. The Agency continues to be an impetus for the promotion of collaboration, diplomacy, and innovation to secure a safer and more sustainable future for all.

6. While celebrating the Agency's achievements over the past 67 years, it is essential to remember that the future of the Agency, being a Member States-driven organization, rests in our hands. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that the Agency progresses effectively and remains responsive to emerging needs and challenges. We must strive to ensure that the Agency's motto 'Atoms for Peace and Development' remains relevant and that the benefits from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are long-lasting.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. This is the very purpose of our gathering this week: to deliberate on the future direction of the Agency. Before us lie numerous issues that await our consideration. Some will address the routine operation of the Agency for the coming year; some will aim to enhance the technical aspects of its work; and others will reflect on the situations that are critical to the Agency. We will hear views – those that are common and those that differ. But I do not see these as obstacles; I see them as an ample opportunity to make use of our 'Vienna Spirit' and to work our diplomacy towards reaching balanced and consensual outcomes.

8. The week ahead of us will not be easy. As a President, I pledge to serve the General Conference with transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. I will do my utmost, to the best of my abilities, to address your questions and concerns. At the same time, it is my fervent hope and a humble call to all of you to adopt a constructive approach and engage in meaningful dialogues. This, I believe, is the path that will lead us to productive results and the timely conclusion of the General Conference.

9. Lastly, I look forward to working closely with all of you and to the successful outcome of this General Conference.

Thank you.
