



**Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King**



National Statement

of

H.E CHHE Lidin, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Mines and Energy

During the attendance of the

The 68th Regular Session of the IAEA's General Conference

16-20 September, 2024 in Vienna, Austria.

His Excellency Mr. President,

His Excellencies,

Honorable and Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of His Excellency **Keo Rottanak**, Minister of Mines and Energy and Cambodia Delegates, I would like to express my sincere congratulation on your election as the President of 68th Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. With your guidance and leadership, I am confident that this year General Conference will bear fruitful and successful outcomes. We would like to reaffirm our commitment from Cambodia to support your leadership throughout your presidency in the General Conference.
2. To the Government and People of the Republic of Austria, in light of the recent and severe flooding that has impacted various regions of your esteemed nation, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and solidarity to the affected communities and families.
3. I would like to also extend my gratitude to Her Excellency Madam Ambassador **Vilawan Mangklatanakul** of Thailand, the President of the 67th General Conference, as well as **H.E Rafael Grossi**, Director General of the IAEA and the Secretariat for their able leadership and exceptional efforts over the year.

4. On behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to reiterate that the Royal Government of Cambodia pledges full support to the non-proliferation of nuclear programs and is actively engaged in ensuring safety, security, and safeguards at the national and regional levels and worldwide.
5. Cambodia is a signatory to numerous international treaties, conventions and agreements that are dedicated to enhancing nuclear and radiation safety, security and safeguards.
6. Most recently, in August 2023 last year, we affirmed our political commitment to the IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Supplementary Guidance.
7. Cambodia is actively considering joining additional international conventions to reinforce our dedication to nuclear safety and security, including the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (A/CPNM) and the International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).
8. Our commitment is enshrined in our National Constitution of 1993 and its amendments, which absolutely prohibits the manufacturing, use and storage of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.
9. Furthermore, the Royal Government of Cambodia has set up key authorities responsible for managing nuclear and radioactive materials and activities, including the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Secretariat of National Counter Terrorism Committee, and the National Authority of Chemical Weapons.
10. We also work closely with our international partners, on many aspects ranging from legislation, application of nuclear science and technology in sectors such as health; industry; agriculture as well as other safety and security activities.
11. As the world grapples with the urgent need to transition to low-carbon energy sources to combat climate change, nuclear power presents a viable and scalable solution. Although Cambodia has no intention to develop a nuclear power program anytime soon, we recognize that nuclear energy is one of the most efficient and reliable source of electricity generation available. It produces vast amount of energy with minimal greenhouse gas emissions.

12. In addition to energy, nuclear technology plays a vital role in the fields of medicine and agriculture. Nuclear medicine has revolutionized the diagnosis and treatment of numerous diseases, including cancer. Similarly, the application of isotopes in agriculture enhances food security by improving crop yields and resilience to pests and diseases, thereby supporting sustainable agricultural practices.
13. Under the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) between Cambodia and the IAEA, the Ministry of Mines and Energy has been actively coordinating with relevant national stakeholders to advance the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in critical areas such as cancer management and food safety and security. This collaborative effort aims to enhance healthcare services by integrating nuclear medicine into cancer treatment strategies, thereby improving patient outcomes. Additionally, the initiative focuses on utilizing nuclear techniques to ensure food safety, bolster agricultural practices, and secure our nation's food supply. Through these efforts, Cambodia is positioning itself to leverage nuclear technology for the betterment of public health and agricultural resilience.
14. We recognise that nuclear materials and technology, including ionizing radiation, offer significant benefits but pose substantial risks. To harness the full potential of nuclear technology, we must prioritize safety, security, and non-proliferation. It is essential that we invest in robust regulatory frameworks and international cooperation to ensure that nuclear activities remain secure and beneficial, while effectively preventing misuse. The IAEA has always and will continue playing a crucial role in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology, and its efforts should be supported and strengthened.
15. As we embrace the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, let us also advocate for public awareness and education. It is vital to demystify nuclear science and its advantages, addressing public concerns and misconceptions. Engaging communities in constructive dialogue regarding the benefits and safety of nuclear technology will lead to foster greater acceptance and collaboration.
16. In conclusion, the peaceful uses of nuclear technology hold considerable promise for building a more sustainable, resilient, and secure future for all at national, regional and global levels. From clean energy generation to advancements in healthcare and agriculture, the benefits are profound and wide-ranging. As we move forward, let us work together—governments, scientists, industries, and communities—to ensure that nuclear technology is harnessed responsibly and effectively, for the betterment of our humanity.

17. Thank you.