

**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AT
THE 68TH IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE DELIVERED BY
AMBASSADOR UMEJ BHATIA, 16 TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1 Congratulations, Ambassador Ham, on your election as President of this 68th General Conference. Singapore's fully supports your leadership. We also warmly welcome Brunei Darussalam, a fellow ASEAN member state, to the Southeast Asia and the Pacific group.

2 The Agency plays a key role in navigating our rapidly evolving nuclear landscape, connecting nuclear applications with global efforts to meet climate goals and achieve sustainable development. With the recent launch of the **Atoms4Food** program and the progress of initiatives like **Rays of Hope**, **ZODIAC**, and **NUTEC Plastics**, the Agency has answered new demands. As nuclear interest grows, member states increasingly rely on the IAEA for professional advice and scientific knowledge.

3 To safely harness nuclear's full potential, regulations and guidelines must keep pace with advancing technologies and new applications. The Agency plays a vital role in upholding standards in the 3Ses – nuclear safety, security and safeguards, and must remain up to date with innovations like **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Transportable Nuclear Power Plants (TNPPs)**. Singapore looks forward to learning more about these developments at the IAEA's first **International Conference on SMRs** next month.

Mr President,

4 **Nuclear safety** in Singapore and our region is a priority for my delegation. Countries studying the nuclear energy option ought to adopt the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. That is why we have actively engaged in discussions of the IAEA's **Safety Standards Committees**, including in the **Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee**, to review and ensure that the IAEA standards documents published reflect high international standards for the peaceful use of nuclear and radiation applications.

5 Singapore proudly co-sponsors this year's **resolution on Nuclear and Radiation Safety**, which highlights the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM)'s work in emergency preparedness and response, environmental radiation monitoring and the transport of radioactive material in Southeast Asia. Singapore has been an active participant in **ASEANTOM** since it was established in 2013. This year we will lead the renewal process on the ASEAN-IAEA Practical Arrangements for a further 5-year term. We are expecting the ASEAN Secretary-General to convey a Letter for the Renewal of the Practical Arrangements to the Agency on behalf of ASEAN in the near future. These Practical Arrangements have elevated the institutional links between ASEAN and the IAEA, with potential for even deeper cooperation.

Mr President,

6 Singapore continues to emphasize the need for a strong global **nuclear security** framework. Any loss or theft of nuclear or radioactive material poses an unacceptable risk. We therefore support the IAEA's central role in providing sound nuclear security guidance. We commend its efforts to promote greater adherence to and full implementation of the **Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment**. Singapore participated in the **International Conference on Nuclear Security** in May, and endorsed the Co-Presidents Joint Statement.

Mr President,

7 The IAEA's **Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme** helps Member States leverage nuclear science and technology to achieve their SDGs. Singapore pledges €475,300 to the TC Fund for 2025 and urges all member states to meet their contributions fully and on time.

8 Beyond financial support, Singapore provides in-kind assistance through training courses and workshops that strengthen regional capabilities. This includes workshops hosted in Singapore through the TC programme on Sterile Insect Technique and Non-Destructive Testing as well as sharing Singapore's experience in the implementation of Safeguards. We look forward to further collaboration with the Agency under the **Singapore-IAEA Third Country Training Programme**, and to our participation in the **Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme** this November.

9 Alongside our collaboration on technical cooperation, Singapore continues work closely with the IAEA to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The National University of Singapore's Centre of Ion Beam

Applications was the first IAEA Collaborating Centre in Singapore, and we hope to do more with the IAEA moving forward.

Mr President,

10 The international community faces tough challenges with non-compliance with **nuclear non-proliferation commitments/obligations**, exacerbated by the current geopolitical environment. These issues require durable solutions, and the IAEA's role is critical.

11 My delegation remains concerned about **Iran's** lack of progress in resolving its outstanding safeguards issues. All NPT States Parties have a duty to fulfil their legally-binding safeguards obligations. While we recognize the particular context of the JCPOA, we emphasize that Iran must meet its obligations under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. We hope that recent exchanges between President Pezeshkian and the Agency will lead to an early visit by the Director-General to Iran, with the establishment of a constructive dialogue that leads to concrete results.

12 Singapore continues to be gravely concerned by the Agency's assessment that the situation at **Ukraine's** Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) remains precarious. All parties to this conflict must refrain from any actions that compromise the seven indispensable pillars or breach the five concrete principles, which are applicable to all nuclear power plants and must be respected.

13 The **DPRK's** continued expansion of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes remains a cause for concern. We urge the DPRK to immediately cease all provocative actions that may raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and fully abide by its longstanding international obligations and commitments, including those under relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Singapore takes our obligations under these resolutions seriously. We implement them consistently and rigorously, including by prosecuting anyone violating our laws which give effect to these sanctions.

Mr President,

14 Singapore reaffirms its strong support for the IAEA, as it tackles new challenges while maintaining its impartiality, integrity and professionalism. We look forward to working with fellow Member States and the Agency to ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy benefits all.

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