



**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY SHUKRI
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON NUCLEAR POWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY
[ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES]**

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I wish to extend my warmest appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for convening this International Ministerial Conference. I wish to begin by congratulating you, Excellency, as the President of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century.

Mr. President,

2. In our pursuit to lay a strong foundation for a sustainable energy future, recognising that energy is an essential precondition for progress in many areas from education to health, jobs, and inclusive growth, Malaysia is exploring all options thoroughly and deliberately to build an energy programme that is founded upon a diverse, reliable and sustainable energy mix.

3. In doing so, the Government of Malaysia recognises the pressing need to address and manage the challenge of energy trilemma at our own home front, which are how do we achieve security and reliability in the energy system, whilst

simultaneously ensuring a balance in the costs to the people and the industry, and how do we drive the transition to a cleaner, low-carbon energy system in the wake of the growing threat of climate change? This need is not in dispute, and these goals remain as relevant as ever, especially in the face of rapid global economic development, including in Malaysia.

4. As a fast developing country, Malaysia is experiencing a remarkable economic transformation and, to this end, the Government of Malaysia is investing in a sustainable energy supply to drive the nation's growth, including exploring nuclear energy as a future energy option.

Mr. President,

5. It is in this spirit that the Malaysia Nuclear Power Corporation (MNPC) was established in January 2011 under the Prime Minister's Department with the responsibility of planning, spearheading and coordinating the implementation of nuclear energy development, as well as to ensure the development of the nuclear governance framework and infrastructure for the country, in line with IAEA guidelines. MNPC is also designated as the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organisation or NEPIO as recommended by the IAEA.

6. The nuclear energy plan was first announced in Malaysia in 2010 as an Entry Point Project (EPP) in the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). The primary rationale for the inclusion of nuclear power development under the ETP was for Malaysia to explore the option of deploying nuclear energy to meet future demand and diversify the energy mix for Peninsular Malaysia.

7. Six years after the announcement of the ETP, the nuclear power programme planning in Malaysia has progressed based on established milestones for newcomer nations developed by the IAEA. Simultaneously, the Eleventh Malaysia Plan for the period from 2016 to 2020 has further underwritten and identified the usage of nuclear power as an alternative energy resource, which will be explored further.

Mr. President,

8. To assess the state-of-readiness in Malaysia, an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review or INIR Mission for Phase 1 of a three-phase nuclear power infrastructure development, as recommended by the IAEA, was successfully conducted in October 2016. We have received the final report of the Mission in March this year, and will seriously take into account the recommendations and suggestions in the INIR report towards making a knowledgeable national decision on the potential of nuclear power generation in the country in a timely and responsible manner.

9. As the studies and decision-making process on these issues takes a long time, apart from assessing the feasibility of the nuclear option on technical, economic and social merits, we are currently soliciting input and information from the public. We are putting in the effort and time necessary to get the basis for this decision right, and we remain committed to an open and transparent process that engages the Malaysian public.

10. At the international level, I wish to take this opportunity to highlight in this Conference that Malaysia has signed the recently-adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations headquarters when it was first opened for signature on 20 September 2017, in testimony of our longstanding principled position on general and complete disarmament towards a nuclear weapon-free world. In this spirit, Malaysia's unwavering commitment towards the elimination of nuclear weapons will enhance our national credibility for peaceful, safe and secure utilisation of nuclear energy and nuclear science and technology.

Mr. President,

11. Malaysia also acknowledges that climate change is a critical threat to global development, which may increase instability and contribute to migration, poverty and fragility. Malaysia has seen a strong drive from our people for a rapid, concerted action on climate change since we signed the Paris Agreement in April 2016.

12. Nevertheless, in every threat there is an opportunity – the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy will enable and drive more innovation, jobs and growth through, among others, a sustainable energy future, including nuclear energy.

13. Finally, it is my fervent belief that this Conference will provide the platform and avenue for all of us here to engage in a high-level dialogue on the role of nuclear power for the future, and exchange views on key issues related to nuclear power. I am truly excited to witness a gathering of many experts – the makers, shakers and influencers – from the world over, and also those who share similar passion and drive in pursuing the nuclear option to build a low-carbon future for our generation today, and for our generation tomorrow.

14. I would like to close by thanking the President for this opportunity to address the Conference.