
Palau Statement to the IAEA 61st General Conference

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Remarks as Delivered

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Thank you!

Madam President Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson, Congratulations on your election as President of this IAEA 61st General Conference.

Allow me to convey on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Palau heartfelt congratulation to Mr. Yukiya Amano for his re-election as the Director General of the IAEA for the third term to which Palau endorsed his candidacy.

At the outset, allow me to convey profound appreciation on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Palau for the continued support and assistance rendered by IAEA, and for this effort, I want to thank Chairman and the Board of Directors, Director General Yukiya Amano, Deputy Director General Dazhu Yang, and the Division of East Asia and the Pacific of the Department of Technical Cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates,

I bring warm greetings to you all from the President of the Republic of Palau, His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. and the Honorable Minister of State, Mrs. Faustina K. Rehuher-Marugg.

Madam President,

Strengthening the IAEA together is worth the effort, so that future generations may live in peace and prosperity where nuclear dangers are a distant memory.

Our presence here today indicates our full supports to the important work of the IAEA. My country, Palau, is strongly committed to the Agency's goals of ensuring the safe, secure, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy while steadfastly preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Distinguished Delegates,

Palau is a nuclear free-zone country but does join you all in facing the challenge and remains vigilant to stand with IAEA and all of you as we move toward the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Let us bolster the Agency's work in fostering peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a safe and secure manner, consistent with the international non-proliferation norms. In doing so, we must all ensure that the IAEA has the resources and is able to use all its authorities to verify compliance with safeguards agreements. We are encouraged to fully support the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. Palau and many of your countries present here today have had a change of participating in the Agency's International Conference on Nuclear Security and we ask IAEA to continue to increase its focus on nuclear security while assisting its member states including Palau for guidance in building our Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP)

Distinguished Delegates,

Though we face continued challenges, let us take this opportunity to re-affirm our commitment in pursuing peace and security and rededicate ourselves to strengthening the IAEA and its vital role in preventing proliferation, addressing noncompliance, and expanding access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

I wish everyone all the best for a productive and successful General Conference.

Madam President,

Today the demand for nuclear energy is still growing rapidly. The challenges we face are many and one of the biggest and powerful challenge is the climate change and we live with its effects, overwhelmingly and it is a pressing danger of our time as more storms, severe droughts and fires intensify and the costs are large in terms of lives lost and economic impact.

I wish to stop now and extend sincerest sympathy and convey condolences to the Caribbean Island and Mexico for their losses

Indeed, nuclear energy plays a greater role in our lives as we look collectively at the challenge of working to reduce carbon emissions while facilitating global development for peace and prosperity and we appreciate the best effort, assistance and guidance rendered by IAEA Department of Technical Cooperation.

Madam President and Distinguished Delegates,

At this juncture, allow me to extend on behalf of the Government of Palau highest appreciation to United States, European Union, Australia and New Zealand and all the donor countries who have risen to the challenge and have been supporting the IAEA' s Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) to benefit more member states including Palau hence, I thank Director General Amano for his outstanding leadership in the effort to drive resources and focus toward supporting global economic development goals and for that Palau has benefited while focused to improve its agricultural productivity, food security, health and nutrition, better management of underground water resources, environment, air pollution, marine coastal areas, sustainable energy development, radiation infrastructure safety, nuclear safety and security and ect.

Madam President,

The burden for improving the safety of nuclear power is ours to share but more resources are needed. Palau has pledged and has paid its share of the Technical Cooperation Fund as recommended by the General Conference as a pledge equivalent to the base rate of the assessment applied to the target share of EURO 85,665, 000. It is vital that IAEA must continue

to ensure that nuclear energy is used safely and securely for peace and prosperity throughout the world.

Palau is committed to adhere to relevant international legal instrument and process is undertaken for Convention on supplementary compensation for nuclear damage (CSC), revised Convention and others as relevantly.

Madam President,

The need for collective action extends beyond safety. The danger of nuclear terrorism remains one of the greatest threats to global security. The Agency' s achievements, demonstrates our shared commitment to ensuring that our worst fears do not come to pass. But despite this tremendous progress, our work together is not done; the attention devoted to nuclear security should be commensurate with the threat we face. Let us congratulate IAEA on maintaining the momentum by convening international conference on nuclear security for many of us participated and witnessed firsthand the active engaged discussions between policy and technical communities that participated.

We look forward to continuing our international cooperation, including with the IAEA, to achieve our nuclear security goals to ensure, verifying the peaceful nature of nuclear programs yields profound and tangible benefits.

Distinguished Delegates,

Safeguards help bring about an international security environment suitable for movement toward nuclear disarmament; they build confidence among neighbors to keep regional peace, and among nuclear suppliers to facilitate trade; and they send up warning flags in countries that would skirt the rules to develop nuclear weapons.

We also call on all Member States to strengthen their financial and technical support to IAEA safeguards Support Programs. We welcome the Agency's continued efforts to make the implementation of safeguards more effective and efficient, and welcome the DG's report on the State Level Concept.

In conclusion, Madam President,

It is important for us to remember as we look ahead, we must challenge ourselves to learn hard lessons from events that have occurred since then while pursuing humanitarian goals in addressing threats that range from nuclear accidents and proliferation to climate change are as serious as any challenges we have faced in human history. But recent history teaches us that we can transform adversity into a catalyst for innovation.

We must bolster this important institution with action by dedicating our collective resources to its mission. We must ensure that all countries that play by the rules can bear the fruit of peaceful nuclear cooperation and that cheating does not go unpunished. Strengthening the IAEA is worth the effort, so that future generations may live in peace and prosperity where nuclear dangers are a distant memory.

As we say Thank you in Palau, SULANG!

