

## **STATEMENT**

**by Head of the Delegation of Lao PDR at the 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IAEA  
General Conference,  
Vienna, Austria, 14-18 September 2015**

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. It is a privilege and honor for me to represent the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). I would like to join other delegations in expressing our congratulation to you, Mr. President, on your election as president of this important conference. I can assure you of full support and cooperation with you during your presidency. We are confident that under your leadership, our conference will be fruitful success.

2. The Delegation of the Lao PDR would like to take this opportunity to welcome Antigua Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan to become new Member States of the IAEA family.

3. On this occasion, I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to his Excellency Mr. Yukiya AMANO, Director General of the IAEA, as well as the Agency's secretariat and staff for their hard works, as well as valuable assistance and support, provided in various areas for Lao PDR thus far.

**Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

4. Lao PDR recognizes the crucial role played by the IAEA in promoting peace and security, and peaceful use of nuclear energy for socio-economic development and prosperity of countries in the regions and the world. We reaffirm our full support for the Agency's activities in this regard.

5. Lao PDR fully supports the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Since our country has become a member of IAEA since 2011, it has concluded various nuclear related instruments, which are, among others, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material-CPPNM in 2010; the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident; and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency in 2013.

It also has signed the IAEA Additional Protocol in November 2014 and we are now contemplating on internal legal procedures in order to ensure its effective implementation once it becomes in effect.

In order to fulfill Lao PDR's obligations and achieve its objectives with regards to the Agency's three main pillars such as the Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguard (3S), the Lao PDR is currently in process of developing and preparing nuclear legislation, establishing the basic infrastructure on radiation and nuclear safety and security, and introducing the nuclear application in various areas, including the promotion of the rice products, soil-water management. The human resources and capacity in the nuclear fields are increasingly developed under the IAEA's programmes.

6. In the area of nuclear security, Lao PDR joined the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM). It notes that the early entry into force of the 2005 Amendment of the CPPNM is important and will contribute to the strengthening of the nuclear security regime of IAEA. The government of the Lao PDR is now contemplating to internal legal procedures to participate in the Amendment of CPPNM.

7. In order to ensure an effective coordination and cooperation with the IAEA, in the meantime, the Lao government established a coordination office under the Ministry of Science and Technology so as to prepare for establishing the National Atomic Regulatory Authority in the near future. A Nuclear Legal Committee is set up to draft a nuclear law, which is expected to be submitted to the National Assembly in the near future. It is indispensable for Lao PDR to increasingly develop capacity building, skills and expertise for the regulator team, raise public awareness and to support the establishment of a national response team on nuclear and radiology.

8. Lao PDR has developed the frameworks for technical cooperation with IAEA, which is called the Country Programme Framework (CPF) for period 2014 to 2018. This framework is the mutual cooperation between the Agency and the Lao Government to support national development objectives such as health, food and agriculture, nuclear application, water resources management, sustainable energy, industry, radiation safety and security.

9. Thanks to the technical cooperation, three national TC projects in cycle 2014-2015 have been approved and being implemented in the Lao PDR, aiming at 1/ Establishing a National Radiation Safety infrastructure; 2/ Establishing the Quality and Safety of Diagnostic Radiology Services; and 3/ Enhancing Food Security through best fit soil-water nutrient management practices with Mutation Induction for drought registrant rice. Further consideration has been made to support projects cycle 2016-2017. The implementation of those projects yielded positive impacts for the Lao PDR, involving, among others, building and development of human resource capacity, infrastructure in the nuclear areas, as well as improvement of human health and agricultural production for food safety

and security through participation in related workshops and trainings organized under the IAEA TC programmes.

In addition, Lao PDR has just joined the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Under RCA's programmes it would promote the nuclear science and technology research and development as well as the peaceful use of nuclear applications in Asia and the Pacific region. We, therefore, are confident that throughout the RCA's projects, Lao PDR could have more opportunity to expand our technical cooperation in the region besides the national projects, especially in human health, food and agriculture, water and environment and industry application.

**Mr. President**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

10. Lao PDR has engaged in regional nuclear cooperation, and has therefore concluded the South East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ). In order to contribute to the regional network activities on safety, security and safeguard, Lao PDR actively participated in activities of the (ASEAN) Network of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy or ASEANTOM. This network is new and organizes the annual meeting to discuss two-year action plans. The latest 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEANTOM Meeting held in Malaysia on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015, in which Lao PDR is proposed to host for the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEANTOM Meeting in 2016. We do wish that the IAEA, the international organizations and Networks will continue to support the regional and national activities of ASEANTOM network.

11. In conclusion, Mr. President, Lao PDR highly appreciated the visit of Director General of the Agency, Excellency Mr. Yukiya AMANO in February 2014. Since the visit there has been closely cooperation between the Agency and the Government of the Lao PDR. May I take this opportunity to wish Director General, you, Mr. President, and other delegates with a good health, happiness and success in future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. President.