

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DATO' ADNAN OTHMAN
TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE 61ST GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAEA
18 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Excellencies

Director-General Yukiya Amano

Distinguished Delegates and Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am indeed very delighted to see the participation of so many ministers and senior officials from Member States to our session this morning. This is a clear testimony of the support and importance we attach to the Agency and for its noble endeavours.

Distinguished Delegates

2. The 61st General Conference provides us with another opportunity to come together to share our accomplishments, ambitions, expectations and challenges. The General Conference is an important platform for Member States to identify common ground among their different priorities, where objective assessments could be drawn from various efforts and initiatives implemented by both Member States and the Agency. The General Conference is also a worthwhile stock-taking exercise for Member States to develop appropriate guidelines and clearer direction for the Agency which would enhance the efficiency as well as strengthen transparency and accountability of the Agency, to ensure better results and decisive actions.

Distinguished Delegates

3. When we commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Agency last year, we reaffirmed our commitment towards various activities undertaken by the Agency, in accordance with the objectives and functions of the IAEA Statute. More importantly, we highlighted the Agency's significant contribution towards global peace, security and development, towards achieving the primary goal of "Atoms for Peace and Development". In our common pursuit of this goal, we would like to commend the continued commitment of Director-General Yukiya Amano and the Agency to facilitate the implementation of various activities and initiatives that would

benefit Member States. The Agency's noble efforts and activities, be it, in the field of nuclear science and application, nuclear safety, nuclear security, safeguard and verification, as well as technical cooperation continuously require our consensus, cooperation and support.

Distinguished Delegates

4. Since the 60th General Conference last year, many significant meetings have been held in Vienna. These meetings have presented perspectives on key challenges and lessons-learned, particularly, on ways the Agency can better perform its role to facilitate as well as to strengthen coordination and coherence across its activities and initiatives related to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

5. While the entry into force of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the adoption of the 2016 Ministerial Declaration on Nuclear Security were among the notable efforts commended by Member States, some also feel that these initiatives still fall short of their expectations. Nevertheless, the outcome of these meetings, on the whole, had indirectly served the purpose of increasing awareness, understanding and ownership of these issues by Member States, and provided a good foundation to take forward the implementation of the important agenda in the Agency. Through mutual trust and confidence, more targeted activities could be aligned with the priorities of Member States and in accordance with the Agency's Statute. The synergy between Member States and the Agency will definitely strengthen our collective aspirations and help create an environment conducive to a more cohesive cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates

6. The technical cooperation program continues to be a key driver for Member States' efforts to achieve sustainable socio-economic development, in particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We commend the efforts and congratulate the Agency for the successful convening of the 1st International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program a few months ago. The Agency has continued to devote more resources in the areas of health and nutrition, nuclear safety, food and agriculture. The modernization of nuclear applications

under the ReNuAL project is a noteworthy effort by the Agency to facilitate the implementation of sustainable development goals.

7. The achievements made by the Agency are laudable and evident. The Agency has done well over the last 60 years, and we are confident that it would continue to do even better over the next 60 Years. Our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Director-General Yukiya Amano and his very able team for all their tireless efforts and commitments. We will continue to render our fullest support and cooperation to him and the Agency.

Distinguished Delegates

8. Presiding over the commemorative 60th General Conference has been a fulfilling, rewarding and a very enriching experience for me. But before I hand over the bridge to the new captain to navigate our 61st session, I would like, at the outset, to extend my deepest gratitude to the Southeast Asia and Pacific Group, as well as its Chairman, for their confidence and support, in nominating me to preside over this very important General Conference last year. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my friend and colleague, Mr. Vilmos CSERVENY of Hungary for the skillful manner he chaired the Committee of the Whole, which resulted with an all consensus draft resolutions. I would also like to thank the eight Vice-Presidents from Canada, Chile, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Latvia, Mongolia and Sudan for their valuable assistance and cooperation to me. Last, but not least, my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Director-General Yukiya Amano and his remarkable staff, and to my reliable pillar of strength, Ms. Aruni Wijewardene and her dedicated team, for the excellent work, support and cooperation they had extended to me.

9. In closing, my sincere gratitude and appreciation, to all delegations for the trust and support you had placed in me, and in particular for your valuable support and cooperation towards a fruitful and successful conclusion of the 2016 60th General Conference of the IAEA.

I thank you all very much.