

Statement by

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International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. President,

My Delegation wishes' to associate itself with the previous speakers in expressing sincere congratulations to you on your unanimous election as President of the 44th Regular Session of the General Conference. We are fortunate, indeed, to have the advantage of your outstanding ability and wide experience in guiding our deliberations during this current session towards a fruitful conclusion.

On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I would like to welcome the delegations of Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and the Central African Republic as new members of the Agency. I believe that your active participation will further strengthen the Agency in achieving its mission in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We have carefully followed the eloquent and comprehensive statement made by the distinguished Director General, Dr. Mohammed El Baradei, at the opening session of our meeting, in which he highlighted the important role of the Agency's three functions — as a catalyst for the development and transfer of technology; as a recognized authority on nuclear safety; and as an instrument for the verification of nuclear non-proliferation — in a common pursuit of the international community to achieve “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want.” In particular, he expressed the Agency's readiness to support the proposed international project under the auspices of the Agency to develop new nuclear technology that could generate nuclear power without requiring or producing weapons

grade material. He further pointed out that the Agency will continue to work closely with those parties involved to promote information exchange and to assist in establishing international norms and safety standards for small and medium power reactors.

Mr. President,

I would like to use this opportune moment to reiterate Indonesia's fervent commitment towards the establishment of a world free from nuclear weapons. In this context, we have signed the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement with the Agency and I should point out that my country is one of the first few countries which have already ratified and implemented the protocol.

At the regional level, Indonesia took an active role in the ASEAN-Agency Workshop on the Implementation of the South East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty held in Bangkok this year and proposed the establishment of the ASEAN Safeguards System (ASAFS) with the primary objective of meeting the requirements as stipulated in the Treaty. We are of the view that the ASEAN Safeguards System could contribute towards the further strengthening of mutual trust among ASEAN member countries and could also serve as significant provision in planning and implementing its safeguards programmes.

Mr. President,

With regard to the progress in the research reactor technology, I am pleased to convey to the Conference at this juncture, that our scientists and engineers in the National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN) have successfully increased the capacity of the Triga Mark II Research Reactor in Bandung from 1000 kW to 2000 kW. The Indonesian "Triga-2000" research reactor achieved its first criticality on 13 May 2000 and was inaugurated by the Vice president of the Republic of Indonesia on 24 June 2000. In this respect, allow me to extend our deep appreciation to the Agency for the assistance rendered which had made such a complex undertaking successful.

Concerning nuclear safety, I wish to inform you that my government recently issued two regulations, on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, and on Nuclear Energy Utilization, which will facilitate the implementation of the New International Basic Safety Standards for the Protection against Ionizing Radiation and the Safety of Radiation Sources.

Technical co-operation with the Agency has significantly assisted my country in the development of human resources capabilities, scientific-technical facilities, and supporting infrastructure in many important areas of our national development, such as agriculture, livestock production, human health, industry, and environment. We are willing to share our acquired expertise and scientific facilities as well as to exchange our experiences with other developing countries. We, therefore, urge the Agency to increase its efforts in promoting South-South co-operation, such as the Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), in addition to the existing North-South co-operation schemes.

My delegation is grateful to acknowledge the Agency's support to our Nuclear Energy Control Board in holding two regional workshops, namely on "Strengthening National Capabilities to Respond to Radiological Emergencies" and on "The Development of A Legal Framework Governing The Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and The Safe Transport of Radioactive Material." In our view, it is indeed timely for the Asia-Pacific region to consider those matters and develop its own capability to respond to any radiological emergencies. We are looking forward to having more regional activities in various aspects of radiation safety and safeguards, tailored to the needs of the region.

Mr. President,

Among the most important peaceful uses of nuclear energy is the generation of electricity to meet the growing energy demand in the long-term future. For energy security reasons, those countries with limited fossil fuel resources are encouraged to diversify their energy supply systems to include renewable and nuclear options in order to ensure a sustainable national development.

In line with the foregoing considerations and the goals of the Kyoto Protocol in Climate Change, Indonesia praises the Agency for its efforts in providing information and training on the potential role of nuclear power under the Clean Development Mechanism.

In this respect, we believe that a collective effort assisted by the Agency towards finding appropriate technical solutions should be undertaken, with the aim of providing safe and reliable energy at an affordable price for the communities, especially in the developing countries. Indonesia is extremely happy with the Agency's programme to render its assistance for introducing nuclear power through the use of Small and Medium Size Reactors as a suitable option for electricity generation together with the production of potable water through nuclear desalination.

Mr. President,

As to the Agency's Technical Co-operation programme, my delegation is very pleased with the comprehensive report of the Director General as contained in Document GC(44)INF/3.

My delegation reiterates the importance of the Agency's efforts to strengthen technical co-operation activities through the development of effective programmes aimed at improving the scientific, technological, and regulatory capabilities of developing countries. My delegation also welcomes the Technical Co-operation Strategy and the concept "Partner in Development" including Country Programme Framework, Thematic Planning and good project design through the application of Model Project criteria.

The aforementioned concepts implemented by the Agency are in full conformity with the policy and strategy of my government to put a sharper focus and place greater emphasis on the advantages for the end-users and socio-economic impact of science and technology, rather than on purely R & D output. In line with this, our National Nuclear Energy Agency has successfully developed partnerships with various ministries, provincial governments, universities, nongovernmental organisations, and the private sector on the

development and applications of nuclear techniques for the improvement of our people's welfare.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm that my country has greatly benefited from co-operation with the Agency and looks forward to further fruitful co-operation through the Technical Co-operation programme and in the framework of the Regional Co-operative Agreement.

Finally, allow me, Mr. President, to bring to your attention to the meeting held between the Director General of the Agency and our President, H.E. Abdurrahman Wahid in which he affirmed his support for the peaceful application of nuclear technology for meeting the basic human needs. Furthermore, he stressed that our government has adopted an open-mind attitude toward the nuclear option as an alternative energy resource in the future.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.