



**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. VICTOR G. GARCIA III  
HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO  
THE 44<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAEA  
Austria Centre, 19 September 2000**

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION WELCOMES YOUR ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THIS CONFERENCE AND OFFERS ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE WITH WHOM WE ARE HONORED TO SERVE. WE DEEM OURSELVES FORTUNATE TO COUNT ON YOUR WISE AND ABLE LEADERSHIP, AND PLEDGE TO YOU OUR FULL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN THE COMING DAYS.

BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK PROFESSOR ABDERRAHMANE KADRI OF ALGERIA, FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK HE CARRIED OUT AS PRESIDENT OF THE 43<sup>RD</sup> REGULAR SESSION, AND TO WELCOME INTO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THIS AGENCY TAJIKISTAN, AZERBAIJAN AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

MR. PRESIDENT,

WE LISTENED WITH GREAT ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND TOOK NOTE OF THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN VARIOUS AREAS AS WELL AS THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. WE COMMEND DR. MOHAMED ELBARADEI FOR HIS STEWARDSHIP OF THE AGENCY, AND THE ENTIRE SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE, AND WE THANK THEM FOR THE 1999 ANNUAL REPORT.

#### **NON-PROLIFERATION AND SAFEGUARDS**

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE, WHICH CONCLUDED ITS WORK LAST MAY IN NEW YORK, PROVIDES A FITTING BACKDROP TO THIS CONFERENCE. THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES WHO SPOKE BEFORE ME RIGHTLY STRESSED THE URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ADHERENCE TO THE NPT AND ITS IMPLEMENTING INSTRUMENTS. MY DELEGATION ADDS ITS VOICE TO THEIRS.

WE WELCOME THE COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS THAT HAVE BEEN SIGNED SINCE LAST YEAR'S

GENERAL CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THAT OF OUR FELLOW ASEAN MEMBER CAMBODIA. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RENEW OUR CALL ON THOSE NPT STATES PARTIES THAT HAVE YET TO CONCLUDE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS WITH THE AGENCY, OR HAVE YET TO BRING THEIRS INTO FORCE, TO DO SO. NOTING THE CONTENTS OF DOCUMENT *GC(44)112*, WE ASK THE AGENCY TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS PARALLEL TO EFFORTS AT DEVELOPING INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS APPROACHES FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF FACILITIES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN REAFFIRMING PHILIPPINE COMMITMENT TO THE NPT, WE ALSO REAFFIRM THE COMMON YET DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES THAT THE TREATY PLACES UPON NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES AND NON NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES. IN OUR VIEW, THE FORMER HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY AS REGARDS NON-PROLIFERATION THAT OUGHT NATURALLY TO BE REFLECTED IN SAFEGUARDS UNDERTAKINGS. THUS, WE CANNOT BUT EXPRESS OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE PROPOSED NEW ARRANGEMENT ON THE FINANCING OF SAFEGUARDS LOOKS TO THE EVENTUAL APPLICATION OF ONLY ONE CRITERIA, NAMELY: ECONOMIC CAPACITY TO PAY. IT IS ALSO REGRETTABLE THAT IN THE PROPOSED RE-DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS NO WEIGHT IS GIVEN TO

POSSESSION OR NON-POSSESSION OF PRIVILEGED REPRESENTATION ON THE AGENCY'S GOVERNING BOARD.

## **TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE ALSO DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO FURTHERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. WE WELCOME THE CONFERENCE'S REAFFIRMATION OF THE AGENCY'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THIS RESPECT. MY DELEGATION IS PLEASED WITH THE SECRETARIAT'S CONTINUING DRIVE TO STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AS REPORTED IN DOCUMENT *GC(44)/INF13*. WE HOPE THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY AND MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMMES WILL ENCOURAGE MAJOR DONORS TO MAKE AVAILABLE GREATER RESOURCES FOR THE COMING TC CYCLES.

MY COUNTRY DEEPLY APPRECIATES THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IT RECEIVES FROM THE AGENCY, AND TAKES PRIDE IN THE FRUITS OF ITS "PARTNERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT" WITH THE IAEA.

IN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY, NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS INTRODUCED THROUGH TC PROJECTS ARE BEING CARRIED FORWARD INTO NEW UNDERTAKINGS OF COMMERCIAL VALUE. BUILDING ON THE TC PROJECT ON THE USE OF STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE, THE PHILIPPINE

DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE DECIDED TO APPROVE A THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME — COSTING PhP18 MILLION — TO ESTABLISH A FRUIT-FLY FREE ZONE ON GUIMARAS ISLAND, WHICH IS A MAJOR PRODUCER OF MANGOES. THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCTION THAT MEETS EXPORT REQUIREMENTS.

A MORE AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING WITH COUNTERPART FUNDING FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS THE FORTHCOMING ESTABLISHMENT OF A LARGE-SCALE COMMERCIAL COBALT-60 IRRADIATION FACILITY TO MEET GROWING LOCAL DEMAND FOR THE RADIATION STERILIZATION AND MICROBIAL DECONTAMINATION OF MEDICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL, FOOD AND OTHER PRODUCTS. IN THIS ENDEAVOR, WE LOOK TO IAEA FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTICULARLY IN THE INITIAL LOADING OF COBALT-60.

IN THE REALM OF PUBLIC HEALTH, NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES ARE SUCCESSFULLY BEING EMPLOYED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF AIR POLLUTION. DATA GATHERED ON AIR QUALITY IS NOW INCLUDED IN THE CLEAN AIR WEBPAGE OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

AS REGARDS MEASUREMENT OF 'RED TIDE' CONTAMINATION IN COASTAL AREAS, THE ONGOING TC PROJECT HAS DEVELOPED A RECEPTOR BINDING ASSAY THAT IS FAST, SENSITIVE, USABLE IN HIGH THROUGHPUT FORMAT AND THAT HAS LOWER VARIABILITY THAN THE MOUSE ASSAY.

THE TECHNOLOGY IS NOW BEING SHARED WITH OTHER RCA MEMBER STATES THROUGH TRAINING ACTIVITIES HOSTED BY THE PHILIPPINES. EXTENSION OF THE TC PROJECT IN 2001-2002 IS BEING SOUGHT FOR PURPOSES OF DEVELOPING A WORKING MODEL OF THE 'RED TIDE' PHENOMENON, VALIDATED WITH RADIOTRACER WORK. THE AIM HERE IS TO BUILD PREDICTIVE CAPABILITY.

STILL IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH, R&D ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER A COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECT (CRP) HAVE YIELDED NEW HYDROGELS, DERIVED FROM CARAGEENAN USING RADIATION TECHNIQUES. INITIAL TESTS SUGGESTS THAT THESE HYDROGELS, WHICH ARE CHEAP, NON-ALLERGENIC AND STERILE, MAY SUBSTITUTE IMPORTED HYDROCOLLOIDS IN THE TREATMENT OF BURN PATIENTS.

FINALLY, AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, THE PHILIPPINES IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. AMONG THESE, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MENTION THE REGIONAL PROJECT ON ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN WHICH WE ARE SERVING AS THE LEAD COUNTRY. THIS OCTOBER THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE HOSTING A WORKSHOP *CUM* TRAINING COURSE ON GEOCHEMICAL MODELLING FOR WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT,

YESTERDAY, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPOKE ALONG THE THEME OF TWO FREEDOMS — FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND FREEDOM FROM WANT - AND HOW THE AGENCY IS CONTRIBUTING TO A SAFER AND MORE HUMANE WORLD. WE SHARE HIS SAME HOPES AS WELL AS HIS JUSTIFIED PRIDE IN WHAT THE AGENCY IS DOING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS STATUTE.

IN CLOSING, ALLOW ME TO REAFFIRM MY COUNTRY'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE NOBLE AIMS AND PURPOSES TO WHICH THE AGENCY DEDICATES ITSELF, AND TO REASSURE YOU OF OUR FULL COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL RESULTS AT THIS CONFERENCE.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.