

**Statement by the Leader of Myanmar Delegation H.E. U TIN WIN
to the 52nd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference 2008
Vienna, 29 Sep 2008 – 4 Oct 2008**

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to convey to you the warmest congratulations of the Government of the Union of Myanmar on your election as the President of the 52nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I am confident that under your able Presidentship and with the support of your team and the Secretariat of the Agency, this General Conference will be able to accomplish its tasks and come to a successful conclusion.

We would like to welcome the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea as new members of the IAEA. We are confident that the new members will make constructive contributions to the IAEA in promoting nuclear science and technology for the benefit of mankind. And we look forward to working together in the years ahead.

Mr. President,

I would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director - General of the IAEA, for his annual report, which reviews the major developments during the year in the areas of the applications of peaceful nuclear science and technology, global nuclear safety and the security of nuclear and radiological materials and facilities, and the implementation of safeguards around the world.

Mr. President,

For more than half a century, the International Atomic Energy Agency has made a great contribution in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy around the world, ensuring nuclear safety, security and nuclear weapon non-proliferation by means of international cooperation and international legal instruments. I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Agency and its staff for their services and efforts in the development of nuclear science and technology as well as nuclear applications, which have been of a great benefit to its Member States.

Mr. President,

Nuclear technology has been utilized around the world in many fields such as health, food and agriculture, industry, water management, pest control, soil conservation, preservation of the environment. The Agency has been playing an essential role in providing assistance to its Member States in the peaceful, safe and secure applications of atomic energy and nuclear techniques in various fields.

The Agency has made a contribution to global efforts in fighting poverty, hunger and disease, and it is also supporting environmental sustainability and the health of mothers and children through its Technical Cooperation Programmes. The role of the IAEA in promoting the developmental programmes around the world for the betterment of humankind using nuclear technologies is unique and should be sustained and expanded.

Mr. President,

Myanmar has eight National Projects under the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme for the year 2007-2008. The Ministries of Health, Education, Livestock and Fisheries, Agriculture and Irrigation, and Science and Technology are working and cooperating together with the IAEA on these projects. The total allocation for TC 2007-2008 cycle is US\$ 1.3 million for

Myanmar. Assistance from the IAEA in total amount of US\$ 5.23 million has been received by Myanmar under the IAEA TC Programme since 2000. The largest significant shares of assistance were provided in the areas of radiation health and medicine (26%), radiation applications in food and agriculture (19%), nuclear radiation safety and security (17%), general atomic energy development (14%) and nuclear engineering and technology (11%).

We would like to use this opportunity to thank the Agency for providing technical cooperation assistance in terms of equipment, expertise and training through the IAEA TC Programmes. They have contributed to our efforts for national development in many areas, especially in health, agriculture, food, livestock breeding, and industry, as well as in human resource development in nuclear science.

Mr. President,

The Government of Myanmar would like to acknowledge the Agency's efforts to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management. The Agency's activities in supporting the implementation of international instruments of nuclear safety, development and application of safety standards and safety guides, strengthening the national safety infrastructures of Member States have made a contribution to strengthening the global nuclear safety regime.

Mr. President,

Myanmar is a developing country and has a programme of promoting the applications of nuclear science and technology for peaceful developmental purposes. The application of nuclear techniques in medical diagnosis and in industry, as well as academic research and development for peaceful nuclear technology will gradually increase in Myanmar. Establishment of an adequate infrastructure for radiation protection and radiation safety is necessary with increasing use of nuclear technology.

We have been working for ensuring the effective control, and safe and secure use of radiation sources, nuclear and radioactive material. We are making efforts to develop and strengthen the national infrastructure related to nuclear technology applications, and we would like the Agency to provide us assistance in establishing and strengthening of infrastructures including capacity building and transferring technical know-how in various fields of applications.

Mr. President,

Strengthening the worldwide security of nuclear material, other radioactive materials and their associated nuclear facilities, which are in use, locations, and transports around the globe is essential to prevent nuclear terrorism and criminal acts, and to establish effective nuclear security regimes. We would like to confirm our support to IAEA's implementation activities of Nuclear Security Plan, its activities to strengthen the global nuclear security regime, and provide nuclear security training to improve and expand practical nuclear security skills of personnel concerned in Member States.

Mr. President,

Whilst promoting and facilitating co-operation worldwide in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Agency, as the internationally recognized authority, is responsible for verifying that these nuclear-related activities are not diverted for non-peaceful purposes. We highly appreciate the agency's role in monitoring the implementation of safeguards agreements, which are meant to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, and in providing the necessary assurances regarding the compliance to these agreements. The Agency's safeguards system and verification activities will remain important in providing assurance to the international community that nuclear materials and facilities are not diverted for non-peaceful purposes.

Mr. President,

Myanmar signed Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1992, Safeguards Agreement and the Small Quantities Protocol in 1995, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. Myanmar also signed the Treaty on South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) at the fifth ASEAN formal Summit held in Bangkok in December 1995. The SEANWFZ Treaty, which came into force in 1997, is aimed at general and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons and promotion of international peace and security. We believe that nuclear weapon free zones in various regions of the world are effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to contribute to nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, on behalf of the Government of Myanmar, I would like to express again our appreciation and thanks to the Director General for his skilled and proven leadership and to the Agency for its excellent professionalism and sterling efforts. We firmly believe that the IAEA will continue to play an essential role in promoting and facilitating cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy and in nuclear weapon non-proliferation. We assure this General Conference of our continued support for the activities of the IAEA and our cooperation for peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology and nuclear weapon non-proliferation around the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.