

**PHILIPPINES**  
**Statement at the 53<sup>rd</sup> IAEA General Conference**  
**14 September 2009**

Madame President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Philippines is very pleased to see you, Madame President, presiding over this conference. Under your able leadership and together with your equally able bureau, we are confident of a smooth and successful conference.

The Philippines congratulates Ambassador Yukiya Amano on his appointment as the new Director General of the IAEA. His assumption to the post comes at a time when the Agency faces many challenges and opportunities. Much is expected of him in meeting these challenges and making the most of the opportunities to strengthen the IAEA. For this, he needs the support and cooperation of member states. The Philippines joins other member states in assuring him of our full support and cooperation.

The Philippines would also like to convey its appreciation and congratulations to Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei for his courage, vision and able stewardship of the IAEA for the past twelve years. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

My delegation welcomes the addition of the Kingdom of Cambodia, a fellow member of ASEAN and the Republic of Rwanda into the family of the IAEA.

Madame President, Distinguished Delegates,

Through its cooperation with the IAEA, the Philippines is contributing to meeting the challenges facing the world today, particularly in food security, water management, the environment and human health.

This cooperation is especially evident in the area of nuclear applications. The Philippines believes that science and technology will help advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We therefore place great emphasis on the application of nuclear technologies.

In food and agriculture, the use of irradiation technology has supported our national agenda on food security through mutation breeding work, in making some of our agricultural products drought-resistant and in helping them gain access to the export market. Through the joint IAEA-FAO programme, we hope to enhance the delivery of nuclear technologies for crop improvement, livestock production and soil, water and fertilizer management.

On human health, the Philippines congratulates the Agency for its valuable work in the Program of Action for Cancer Therapy or PACT. The Philippines continues to give the program its full support. It encourages member states and other funding institutions to donate generously to the programme. Madame President, the Philippines will submit a resolution on PACT at this Conference and seeks the support of Member States for its adoption. PACT can also benefit from regional initiatives on cancer therapy such as the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia. Under the framework of the forum's project on Radiation Oncology, the Philippines has developed the best protocols for treating cancer patients. The Philippines also continues to conduct a two-year training program for nuclear medicine technicians, now the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch, based on the RCA project on Distance-Assisted Learning for Nuclear Medicine Technicians.

In the area of environment, the Philippines has also achieved significant milestones in the use of radioisotopes and nuclear techniques. In December 2008, the Philippines inaugurated the Environmental Isotope Center which has enabled the Philippines to be self-sufficient in isotope analyses. The Center has also facilitated the development of the country's capability to assess its water resources as well as other applications.

Madame President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The need for a reliable source of energy that can sustain development and save the environment has brought about renewed interest in nuclear energy. More countries, particularly from the developing world, are turning to the Agency for assistance in the development or expansion of their nuclear power programs. However, confidence in the use of nuclear energy hinges on the continuous improvement and strengthening of safety and security regimes for nuclear facilities. We know too well from the experience of Chernobyl that a nuclear accident needs no passport and knows no boundaries. The Philippines therefore places great importance on the Agency's programmes on safety and security.

The Philippines is closely collaborating with the IAEA in the development of a safety infrastructure in the event that the country pursues a nuclear power program. It appreciates the technical assistance it is receiving from the Agency in various safety-related projects, including the long-term management of radioactive waste and the enhancement of the competencies of its technical personnel. The Philippines is also an active participant in various knowledge networks on safety, such as the Asian Nuclear Safety Network, and looks forward to contributing to its vision of a sustainable regional network by 2020 for assisting Member States in the improvement of their nuclear safety infrastructure.

In the area of nuclear security, the Philippines, through the assistance of the Agency, has refined its National Nuclear Security Plan, and developed an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan. The eventual implementation of the Philippine Nuclear Security Plan would be the contribution of the Philippines to the establishment of a global nuclear security regime.

A major challenge brought about by a nuclear renaissance is the increasing risk of nuclear proliferation. Through its safeguards system, the IAEA plays a crucial role in the verification of non-diversion of nuclear material to non-peaceful uses. Together with the CTBTO, the Agency serves as a vanguard of

the non-proliferation regime. It is therefore important that the Agency's nuclear verification capability is strengthened. The conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols and providing the Agency with tools and resources to effectively implement a credible verification system will go a long way to reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation, thereby contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security.

At the same time, the Philippines believes that the long standing concern of developing countries in achieving a balance between the Agency's promotional activities and its verification activities should be resolved. In this regard, we look forward to the commencement of negotiations by the Working Group on the Budget, which would hopefully be able to address, among others, some of the long-standing issues on the Technical Cooperation Fund and further enhance the Agency's ability to make meaningful contributions to the socio-economic development of its Member States. A better understanding of each others needs and concerns is essential so that a spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility can prevail in our discussions.

Madame Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates

An important issue related to non-proliferation is the assurance of fuel supply. We believe that a multilateral framework, with the IAEA playing a central role, is essential to assurance of supply and services for the nuclear facilities of States, without the need to undertake sensitive nuclear fuel cycle activities. Such a multilateral framework will serve as an important tool for strengthening the non-proliferation regime. Consultations should continue to help clarify issues that have been raised by Member States leading hopefully to wider acceptance of the proposals. We stress, however, that the resulting mechanism should ensure that equal access to nuclear fuel should be guaranteed and that this would not lead to a monopoly by any Member State or group of states over nuclear fuel supply.

On the implementation of safeguards in Iran, the Philippines remains concerned over the lack of substantive progress towards resolving the remaining issues

that would enable Iran to provide credible assurance on the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities. We emphasize the importance of continued constructive dialogue and cooperation among all parties concerned in finding a peaceful and comprehensive resolution to issue. We call on Iran to comply with the relevant resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors and the Security Council.

On the issue of the DPRK's nuclear program, the Philippines expresses its concern over North Korea's recent announcement regarding the current status of its enrichment activities following the total cessation of all its cooperation with the Agency. Considering its proximity to the Korean Peninsula, the Philippines is seriously concerned over North Korea's intransigent acts, which are serious threats to peace and stability in the region. These acts are clear violations of its commitments under the Six Party Talks and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We are committed to help create an environment of trust and confidence conducive to the DPRK's engagement with the international community.

The Philippines strongly supports the establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones as a way to contribute to international peace and security. We therefore support the establishment of a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. And as its contribution to achieving peace and stability in Southeast Asian, the ASEAN established the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. We encourage the nuclear weapon states and other partners in the region to accede to the SEANWFZ treaty.

Madame President,

The Philippines shares the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, and to ensure that nuclear energy is used only for peaceful purposes. We take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to realizing the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in a comprehensive manner. We believe that there should be equal progress on all three pillars of the Treaty, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Madame President,

As the President-elect of the NPT Review Conference in 2010, the Philippines believes that while the achievement of the objectives of the NPT has remained elusive so far, there are encouraging signs in recent months that have generated an atmosphere of hope and optimism for the Conference. Let us all seize this opportunity to have a constructive dialogue and move the process forward.

Madame Chairperson,

The Agency is confronted with challenges and issues complicated by certain political realities. The Philippines believes, however, that we cannot allow our gains to be eroded or erased by our differences. We look forward to working with Member States in finding win-win solutions to these issues in the spirit of mutual respect, transparency and constructive dialogue.

In closing, Madame President, allow me to reiterate the continuing commitment of the Philippines to the Agency and its objectives.