Kingdom of Cambodia Nation Religion King



Statement by His Excellency TUN LEAN Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Mines and Energy

60th General Conference International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

> 26-30 September 2016 Vienna, Austria

A very good afternoon
Excellency Mr. President,
Excellency Director General
Excellency Secretary
Excellency, Honorable Distinguished Member States
Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, we would like to congratulate Excellency Mr. President the Ambassador Datuk Adnan Bin Othman of Malaysia on your election as the president of the 60th IAEA General Conference. We are really pleased and proud in joining other ASEAN member states to see one of us is representing our entire region to lead this remarkable general conference.

We thank also to Excellency Filippo Formica, the President of the 59th General Conference for his great achievement during his term.

We express our sincere thanks to Excellency Yukiya Amano the Director General of the IAEA for his great work and express our strong support for his continuous efforts in leading the IAEA going forward from this 60-year anniversary milestone. Under his guidance and brilliant leadership the IAEA will continue contributing to the world peace and development utilizing nuclear technology.

We would like to welcome aboard and congratulate the new member states to the IAEA, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent the Grenadines and the Islamic Republic of Gambia. We wish them a success in this membership achievement.

Historically, Cambodia became a member of the IAEA in 1958; two years after IAEA was established. We maintained our membership until 2003 and retained our membership again in 2009. Cooperation with the IAEA has helped Cambodia significantly to push forward our many development goals. For that we are grateful and appreciative to the agency.

There are various Cambodian institutions that work closely with the IAEA, but the Ministry of Mines and Energy works as a competent nuclear agency and contact point. There are also other lines ministries and agencies at the national level who are working with IAEA on many aspects ranging from legal, application of nuclear technology in health, industrial sector, agriculture as well as safety, security and safeguard of nuclear materials.

Although nuclear sector is not widely used in Cambodia, the Royal Government also takes part and fully committed in ensuring nuclear safety, security and safeguards at national, regional level and throughout the world. Over the years, Cambodia is a partner of many IAEA's agreements; treaties; protocols and conventions. For instance, in 1972, Cambodia signed on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in 1997. In its constitution, the Kingdom of Cambodia is absolutely prohibited from manufacturing, use and storage of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

Currently, Cambodia has been a party to the Additional Protocol (AP) and Small Quantity Protocol for strengthening the country safeguards commitment. For those other IAEA's conventions, treaties that Cambodia is not yet a partner, we are under consideration and hope to do that in the near future.

In recent years, through the technical cooperation programs provided by the IAEA we have been able to implement successfully various nuclear technology application projects in agriculture sector such as soil fertility, crop management and livestock production. Through this program, it has helped to establish the National Cancer Center in enhancing better capabilities in cancer treatment and nuclear medicine. The technical program also has helped improving our water resources management. In particular the program has provided an instrumental support in launching and the establishment of a future nuclear regulatory authority after the nuclear law will be promulgated in the near future.

In energy sector, though nuclear power plant we are not there yet, we strongly believe in building soft infrastructure and that include necessary regulatory framework to build an institutional capacity, capacity building and human resource development as well as to establish the safety and security regulations and standards. The IAEA has been generous in extending to us to offer opportunity for our staffs to train as inspector and the post graduate program trainees. These individuals they are going to be great assets to Cambodia for future.

Once again, on behalf of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, we are deeply grateful to Excellency Director General so much for the various cooperation extended and provided to Cambodia so far by the IAEA, and based on this perspective, we sincerely appeal for more cooperation programs in nuclear technology for peaceful purpose and development of Cambodia.

In conclusion, I would like to wish Excellency Mr. President, Excellency Director General, Distinguished Countries Representatives, Honorable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen the four gems of Buddhist Blessing: Longevity; Nobility; Health and Strength.

Thank you very much!