



**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY DATO' ADNAN BIN OTHMAN
PRESIDENT OF THE 60TH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE
26 SEPTEMBER 2016
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH**

Your Excellencies
Director-General Yukiya Amano
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for electing me to preside the 60th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. I am deeply honored and humbled for the faith and confidence you have entrusted upon me. Let me assure you that I will do my utmost to successfully fulfill this very important task.

2. I would also like to express my special thanks to all the members of the Southeast Asia and the Pacific area group, in particular Australia, the Chair of the group for their support and encouragement.

3. I would further like to convey my deepest appreciation to my dear friend and colleague, His Excellency Filippo Formica of Italy, for his sterling stewardship of the 59th General Conference last year.

4. Finally, I would like to pay tribute and commend Director-General Yukiya Amano for his superb leadership, dedication and commitment in steering the work of the Agency for the last seven years, and also to the entire IAEA family for their achievements.

Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

5. The 60th Regular Session of the General Conference this year is also an auspicious and a special one. As it also coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the IAEA, the 60th General Conference this year is a commemorative one as well.

6. In view of this, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Director-General Amano and the Agency a very Happy 60th Anniversary of its establishment.

7. Since its founding in 1956, the Agency has advanced the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Agency's contributions in a wide array of fields including water, agriculture and human health have immensely contributed to socio-economic development. Today, the Agency is widely known and acknowledged as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization within the United Nations family. As the focal point for nuclear cooperation,

the Agency has worked resolutely with Member States and various partners to promote safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies worldwide.

8. The Agenda 2030 and its sustainable development goals approved by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 sets a broad development framework which provides greater momentum to the Agency to build on the achievements made in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and to further enhance its efforts in the nuclear field.

9. As we pay tribute and recount the milestones and remarkable achievements of the Agency over the last 60 years, let us at the same time put our thoughts together on what more could be done by the Agency to further accelerate, enlarge and diversify the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

10. It is also important for us to bear in mind that the Agency can only perform its function to its full and optimum capacity with a sound and healthy financial situation and resources. It is, therefore, our common responsibility to ensure that the Agency is provided with adequate means for implementing these development initiatives, in terms of finances, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. This will require a strengthened global partnership for development and enhanced cooperation between the Agency, Member States, the private sectors and civil societies, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

11. The General Conference offers us the opportunity to review and take stock of the work of the Agency, build on the achievements to date and make decisions to further progress the Agency's efforts to promote global peace and security. The IAEA is a Member States driven organization and it is therefore upon us to fully utilize and optimize the chance afforded us by this General Conference to define our future aspirations and goals for the work of the Agency.

12. Over the next few days, the General Conference would consider a list of agenda items and related key draft resolutions. We will deliberate upon them, address various issues and may be called to take a decision on some of the items.

13. As I have mentioned earlier, the 60th Regular Session of the General Conference coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Agency. I sincerely hope that the commemorative mood in the air and the 'Vienna Spirit' of consensus we are time and again reminded of would make our deliberations over the next five days constructive. I am convinced that all Member States would work together with a sense of urgency, greater cooperation and accommodation, in ensuring a fruitful outcome and timely conclusion of our General Conference.

14. I cannot wish for a better stage than the one set at this 60th Regular Session of the General Conference. So let us all play our part well to ensure an astounding finale.

Thank you.

26 September 2016