

STATEMENT

by

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Head of the Delegation of Viet Nam to the Sixtieth

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Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to you on your election as the President of the Sixtieth Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. I am convinced that with rich experience and distinguished leadership you will lead the General Conference to a great success.

2. The Delegation of Viet Nam would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Saint Lucia, Islamic Republic of the Gambia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines as new Member States of the Agency.

3. This year, we together celebrate 60 years of the IAEA's foundation. Looking back the last sixty years, Viet Nam highly appreciates the great efforts and remarkable achievements made by the Agency in performance of its mandate underpinned by the three main pillars: Safety and Security; Science and Technology; Safeguards and Verification. The IAEA has demonstrated its important role in peaceful use of atomic energy, contributing to the development of nuclear technology for sustainable development goals. These achievements are the results of the effective cooperation among the Member States and the Secretariat under the excellent leadership of H.E Dr. Yuki Amano and the guidance

of the Board of Governors.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

4. Since the promulgation on the 3rd January 2006, the Viet Nam's *Strategy for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy up to 2020* has been implemented for 10 years. We note with satisfaction that through the efficient cooperation and assistance of the IAEA, its Member States, and other relevant international organizations. Viet Nam has gained considerable and important achievements in nuclear science and technology, contributing to the socio-economic development of the country. Herewith, I would like to emphasize the following outstanding results of application of nuclear technology in various areas:

Health-care: Thanks to the Government's effort and the IAEA's assistance, our networks of nuclear medicine, diagnostic radiology, radiotherapy with advanced equipment and techniques have been established and operated in many hospitals. At present, Viet Nam has nearly 60 nuclear medicine and radiotherapy departments, with nearly 100 nuclear medicine imaging and radiotherapy machines, achieving the rate of about 0.47 radiation imaging machine and 0.58 radiotherapy machine per million people. Especially, Viet Nam has produced radioisotopes and new kinds of tracer kit for pain relief of metastatic bone cancer, imaging diagnosis for osteomyelitis and infection, diagnosis and treatment of head and neck cancers.

Agriculture: The IAEA has assisted Viet Nam in creating and developing rice and soybean mutant varieties with characteristics that allow them to resist disease and thrive under harsh conditions, such as arid and saline

soils. In addition, the IAEA has been supporting Viet Nam on the development and application of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). This technique keeps fruits in good quality and mitigates the residues of plant protections in them; helps expand dragon fruit exportation markets.

Industry: Under the IAEA/ TC projects (VIE), nondestructive testing techniques (NDT) have been experimented and efficiently applied in Viet Nam, meeting the increasing needs of the society. Those NDT techniques, namely Digital Fluoroscopy, the advanced technique of the generation III tomography (Gamma-COMET), the digital radiation photography technique (CR, DR), the phase Array Ultrasonic Technique integrating the Time of Flight Diffraction technique (AUT + TOFD) and Eddy Current Technique (ECT) have been developed to inspect the projects in the fields of oil and gas, shipbuilding, construction, aviation... During the period of 2015-2016, research and development activities such as the application of simulation techniques and using the NDT testing results to evaluate the aging of some parts/structures of a thermal power plant have been initially conducted and developed, present promising results for its application in the energy industry of Viet Nam.

Radiation application: With support from the Agency, the irradiation facilities in Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi have been operating with full capacity for medical equipment sterilizing, frozen foods preserving and fruits exporting. In addition, radiation technology has been applied to produce polymer products, whose water solubility, salinity resistance and high temperature resistance properties provide long lasting performance in a spectrum of oil and gas industry uses.

Water resource management and environment: Viet Nam has applied nuclear techniques to evaluate the extent of water, ground, air pollution,

and conduct environmental radioactivity monitoring and warning. Many problems arising from water resource management and environment in some key areas have been resolved with isotopic and other nuclear techniques application. At present, Viet Nam has 3 regional environmental radiation monitoring stations to monitor regularly the environmental radiation in some localities. We are planning to build up the national network on environmental radiation monitoring and warning in the near future.

Legal framework: The IAEA/TC projects have provided substantial support to Viet Nam in training and developing its human resource for the development of nuclear law and regulations in line with safety and security standards of the IAEA.

Nuclear safety and security: The IAEA has been supporting Viet Nam in strengthening technical capacity of the national regulatory body in accordance with international standards. We highly appreciated the effective collaboration of the Agency in developing the Viet Nam's Integrated Nuclear Security Supporting Plan (INSSP), which was issued in 2011 and last reviewed in Dec 2014.

Nuclear infrastructure development: The IAEA/ TC projects and the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review Mission (INIR Mission) have provided us with timely and efficiently supports in training and developing human resource, studying and evaluating NPP sites, developing legislative and regulatory framework, management system, and ensuring nuclear safety and security, v.v... We highly appreciate the Agency's recommendations for Viet Nam on key issues of the sustainable development of national nuclear infrastructure.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

5. As a responsible Member State, Viet Nam has fully fulfilled its obligation and commitments to the Agency and at the same time, supported and participated in the international initiatives and efforts on the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, non-proliferation. In March 2016, Viet Nam attended the 4th Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., USA. It was the 4th consecutive time we attended the Nuclear Security Summit process. Furthermore, Viet Nam is a party of almost all international treaties and conventions relating nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation. Last week, we have deposited instrument of accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Currently, we are under the internal procedure of the accession to the 1997 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, and actively studying the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC).

6. On the 2nd November 2015, Viet Nam and the IAEA signed the Viet Nam's Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period of 2016-2021. This reflects the extensive and effective cooperation of Viet Nam and the Agency. During the fiscal year of 2016 – 2017, Viet Nam has been implementing 07 national TC-VIE projects and participating in a number of regional (RAS) and inter-regional (INT) projects. For the fiscal year of 2018-2019, we have proposed 06 new projects on nuclear infrastructure, radioprotection and nuclear safety, healthcare and food safety.

7. Viet Nam attaches great importance to the role of nuclear science and technology toward sustainable development. We desire to strengthen

cooperation with the Agency, its Member States, and other international organizations in peaceful use of nuclear energy while implementing the *Strategic Orientation for Viet Nam's Sustainable Development – Viet Nam's Agenda 21*.

8. Viet Nam promotes the bilateral cooperation in the field of atomic energy with other countries, especially with the leading nuclear technology countries. We are also willing to cooperate and assist the Agency' new Member States in ASEAN and the Africa by providing them with nuclear techniques and experts.

9. In conclusion, Mr. President, the Delegation of Viet Nam wishes to thank the Agency for its cooperation and valuable assistance. We would like to reaffirm Viet Nam's full support to the Agency for the promotion of nuclear science and technology for a world of peace, stability, cooperation and development.

Thank you for your kind attention./.