

FINAL

**STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES by
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**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY:
COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS**
5-9 December 2016,
International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Philippine Delegation, let me congratulate you on your Presidency of this International Conference on Nuclear Security. We trust in your ability to steer this Conference to the achievement of its objectives, particularly in providing important input to the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan for 2018-2021.

We appreciate the efforts **Ambassador Song Young-Wan** of the Republic of Korea and **Ambassador Abel Adalakun Ayoko** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in coordinating Member States to reach consensus on the balanced text of the Ministerial Declaration. We also commend the Secretariat for the excellent preparation for this Conference.

Mr. President,

The Philippines welcomes the large number of high-level delegations present today. This high-level participation and engagement by Member States will positively impact on the crafting of a new Nuclear Security Plan and on the

Agency's contribution to the global efforts to address the threat of nuclear or other radioactive material falling into the hands of terrorists and violent extremists.

Mr. President,

The Philippines' commitment to strengthening nuclear security worldwide stems from its recognition that nuclear security, alongside with nuclear safety, is important to the continued development and enjoyment of the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

While nuclear security is a primary responsibility of individual States, greater international cooperation, with the IAEA as the focal point, is needed to enhance national capacities in nuclear security.

Our participation in this conference, and that of the other member countries to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and to the Nuclear Security Summits process contribute towards the establishment of a global nuclear security regime.

Mr President,

It has been three years since the Agency first convened the *'International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts'*, a forum that, through the exchange of experiences and ideas, enabled the identification of emerging trends in international nuclear security and informed the development of a Nuclear Security Plan.

We are pleased that, in response to the Member States' call, this second International Conference is convened to focus on on commitments and actions. We believe that this follow-up Conference will also inform our nuclear security-related activities that contribute to this global effort: particularly in the development of a legislative and regulatory framework; and in the prevention, detection, and response to nuclear security threats and challenges.

Mr President,

The Philippines recognizes the importance of adherence to and implementation of relevant international instruments for strengthening nuclear security. We welcome the entry into force of the 2005 Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) in May of this year. The Amendment constitutes an important milestone in international efforts to improve the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities.

The Philippines is committed to ratify the Amendment to the CPPNM. Our domestic law on Anti-Terrorism or Human Security Act 2007 will be revised to include nuclear terrorism and other penal provisions contained in this CPPNM Amendment. We are also working towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

We continue to work on the passage of a comprehensive nuclear law. The legislative bill on the "Comprehensive Nuclear Regulation Act", which addresses

nuclear security requirements. This bill is part of the priority legislative agenda of the Department of Science and Technology, which I represent.

In accordance with the relevant IAEA nuclear security recommendations and guides, we have updated domestic regulations relating to nuclear security. Our national competent authority now requires licensees to ensure security of their radioactive sources by developing a Security Plan and to submit a Transport Security Plan before transporting their radioactive material.

Mr. President,

Prevention

A fundamental principle of physical protection is that it should be based on the State's current evaluation of the threat. This evaluation is formalized through a Threat Assessment (TA) process.

The Philippines Threat Assessment process made use of and was fully informed by the IAEA and its recommendations in INFCIRC/225/Rev4 on the transformation from Threat Analysis to and Design Basis Threat.

We have also installed security alarm systems for facilities with high-risk radioactive sources through the support of the *United States Department of Energy*. We implemented security upgrades in hospitals with radioactive sources and in facilities within the premises of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute. To

further optimize the security situation at the PNRI premises, we have disposed of vulnerable or disused sources, and repatriated these to their origin.

Under the *Global Partnership Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada*, we continue to work on the Physical Protection System (PPS) of the Phil. Research Reactor-1. The on-going installation is expected to be completed early next year.

Detection

We developed a national detection strategy for the detection of illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials at borders. We also supported the US Megaports Initiative, which works with foreign customs, port authorities, port operators, and/or other relevant entities in partner countries to systematically enhance detection capabilities for special nuclear and other radioactive materials in containerized cargo transiting the global maritime shipping network. As part of this initiative, we installed twenty (20) Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs) at the Port of Manila and at Cebu International Port and have interdicted contaminated finished products from import shipments which were returned to the port of origin.

Through our nuclear and customs authorities, the Philippines continues to participate in the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) and reports to the

ITDB any loss, theft and other incident relating to illicit nuclear and other radioactive materials detected at the borders.

Mr President,

Response

The Philippines, through the PNRI, has also developed plans and procedures to respond to incidents involving nuclear and other radioactive material, including seizure of such material by law enforcement authorities. In this regard, we continue to strengthen intelligence and investigation cooperation, including through active partnership with the police, the Manila Interpol, and the National Coast Watch.

Mr. President,

While we recognize the danger posed by nuclear and other radioactive material falling into wrong hands, we are still challenged by the scientific expertise and resources needed to put in place an effective and appropriate national system for nuclear security. However, noting the necessity to develop national capabilities in nuclear security, we utilize synergies offered by, and leverage on our close partnerships with the IAEA and other relevant organizations as well as bilateral partners.

We intend to establish a Nuclear Security Support Center (NSSC) at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute which is to be pursued in coordination with a Nuclear Training Center. At the PNRI, through the assistance of EU/JRC –

USDOE, we have also installed a Radiation Portal Monitor for use in training the Front-Line Officers (FLO) under the project *Border Monitoring in the Philippines*.

CONCLUSION

Mr. President,

The Philippines is honored to be part of this inclusive forum to formulate and exchange views on future directions and priorities for nuclear security and how these may evolve. We have shared our national experiences and achievements in strengthening nuclear security and underscored the importance of international cooperation.

As a founding member of the United Nations, an active member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Interpol and the Global Initiative for Combatting Nuclear Terrorism (GCINT), the Philippines believes in a holistic approach in dealing with the nuclear security issue. Addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism and proliferation will also assist in creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the objectives of the NPT. Disarmament, non-proliferation, nuclear security and safety should, therefore, go hand-in-hand.

The Philippines is committed to playing an active role in strengthening the nuclear security architecture in the national, regional and global levels. In 2017, we will be assuming the chairmanship of ASEAN, which present opportunities for

further strengthening and enhancing the nuclear security and safety architecture in our part of the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.