

## **NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AT THE 62<sup>nd</sup> IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE, 17-21 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Madam President  
Excellencies  
Distinguished delegates

My delegation congratulates Ms. Marta Žiaková on her election as President of this General Conference. You can count on my delegation's full support and cooperation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Director General Yukiya Amano a speedy recovery and a swift return to his duties in Vienna.

Madam President,

Since the last General Conference, we have witnessed significant developments with potentially far-reaching implications on the IAEA's work.

After conducting a series of nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches last year, the DPRK resumed direct talks with the ROK this year.

DPRK State Affairs Commission Chairman Kim Jong Un and ROK President Moon Jae-in already held two Summits this year, with a third Summit to be held in Pyongyang tomorrow (18 September).

In June, Singapore hosted the Summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim, the first meeting between a sitting US President and the DPRK's Leader.

Singapore welcomes the Panmunjeom Declaration signed by President Moon and Chairman Kim, and the Joint Statement signed by President Trump and Chairman Kim.

We also welcome the DPRK's stated commitment to complete denuclearisation and its pledge to refrain from further nuclear and missile tests.

We hope that the Summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim will be the first step in the journey towards lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

While we welcome these positive developments, we continue to urge all concerned parties to engage in dialogue, and to take concrete steps to implement the Joint Statement of the Singapore Summit.

We also call upon the DPRK to fulfil its international obligations, including those under the relevant UNSC Resolutions, and to return to full compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Singapore takes our obligations under the relevant UNSC Resolutions seriously and will continue to implement them fully and faithfully.

Madam President,

The US withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in May 2018.

The IAEA has continuously verified Iran's implementation of all its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA since Implementation Day, and that there is no diversion of nuclear material declared under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

We also acknowledge and welcome Iran's continued provisional application of the Additional Protocol to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, pending its entry into force, and that the IAEA had conducted Complementary Access inspections to all sites its inspectors needed to visit.

Singapore has consistently maintained that the JCPOA plays an important role in the international nuclear non-proliferation architecture.

We note that the remaining parties of the JCPOA have continued to reaffirm their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the agreement, as long as Iran continues to fulfil its nuclear-related commitments.

We therefore encourage Iran to continue upholding its obligations under the JCPOA, the provisional application of the Additional Protocol, and to cooperate fully with the IAEA and all relevant international partners.

This would reassure the international community of the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities.

We also urge all parties to the JCPOA to continue their dialogue through the JCPOA's Joint Commission and other avenues to sustain this internationally-negotiated agreement.

Madam President,

Singapore served on the IAEA's Board of Governors (BOG) for the last two years and will relinquish our membership after this General Conference.

We sought to be a constructive delegation during our tenure, in particular on nuclear safety, nuclear security and technical cooperation.

We consistently advocated for the Agency to enhance its Nuclear Safety Requirements, including by incorporating the lessons learnt from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident and the principles of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety.

We called on the Agency to ensure that its Nuclear Safety guidance documents remain current with the latest innovations in nuclear technology, in particular those related to small and medium-sized or modular reactors (SMRs) and transportable nuclear power plants (TNPPs).

We consistently underscored the importance of strengthening nuclear security because any loss or theft of nuclear and radioactive material – which recently occurred in our region – could lead to serious consequences. The threat of nuclear and radioactive terror attacks must therefore be taken seriously even if it is not seen as the most imminent of threats.

To that end, we supported the IAEA's campaign to promote the universalisation of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

We also supported the IAEA's efforts to develop nuclear security guidance on computer and information security, and in assisting Member States in strengthening their cyber-defences, because nuclear installations could be targets of major cyber-attacks.

On technical cooperation, we consistently called for the IAEA to provide sufficient technical assistance to developing countries, in particular small States and Least Developed Countries, to help them attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

We backed up our calls with concrete contributions through the Singapore-IAEA Third Country Training Programme (TCTP). Over the past two years during our BOG membership, we conducted regional workshops on topics such as emergency preparedness and response, nuclear regulatory law, food safety and hosted 11 training fellowships (2016-2018).

Even though Singapore will step down from the BOG this year, we will continue to play an active and constructive role to support the IAEA's work.

Madam President,

Before I conclude, I would like to update the Conference on some key developments of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM).

Singapore is chair of ASEANTOM this year. ASEANTOM adopted a five-year work plan (2018-2022) this past June which included the establishment of a harmonised assessment and decision making protocol during a nuclear or radiological emergency and a regional public communications strategy under an ASEANTOM-IAEA regional project.

ASEANTOM is also working with the IAEA to finalise the draft ASEAN-IAEA Practical Arrangements.

We are hopeful this can be concluded later this year, which will further deepen our institutional links and cooperation with the IAEA.

Madam President,

In closing, the Agency has acquitted itself very well in the past year in dealing with challenging developments in key dossiers such as Iran and the DPRK.

The Agency has also improved its administrative processes and efficiency through Results Based Management, initiatives such as One-House Approach, as well as better coordination between various departments.

We have every confidence that the Agency will be able to tackle any new challenges that come its way in the coming year.

All Member States should also do their part to foster trust, promote dialogue and strengthen cooperation in the BOG and General Conference, and guard against unnecessarily politicising the agenda of the IAEA by bringing extraneous political issues into the deliberation of its issues.

Thank you, Madam President.

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