



**Statement by H. E. Mrs. Priyanee Wijesekera  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka  
At the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference,  
Vienna, Austria on 19 September 2018.**

Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of Sri Lanka, it is a privilege and honor for me to add my words of congratulation to H.E Mrs. Marta Ziakova on your assumption of the Presidency of the Sixty Second Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It is regrettable to note that Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General is not present with us today. I also convey my appreciation for him for sending a video message to the Director General Conference.

Madam President,

We recall with pleasure, the visit to Sri Lanka by, His Excellency Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the Agency from 14 to 16 March 2018, at the invitation of the Government at the last General Conference.

During the visit, DG Amano had constructive engagements with a range of Ministers and government officials, including the Hon. State Minister of Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy, Secretary to the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy, Chairman and Director General of Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board, Chairman and Director General of Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council. These engagements helped to further strengthen Sri Lanka's relationship with the IAEA and explore further enhancement of collaboration between Sri Lanka and IAEA.

Madam President,

The Government of Sri Lanka decided to conclude the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement between Sri Lanka and the IAEA, and the same was endorsed by the last Board of Governors Meeting held this month.

Sri Lanka considers nuclear security as a vital subject and appreciates the assistance given by the IAEA on security matters to strengthen local infrastructure. We acknowledge the assistance provided by the IAEA Department of Nuclear Security to train Sri Lankan officials.

The Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council as the regulatory authority in Sri Lanka has taken a number of steps to strengthen regulatory infrastructure with regard to safety, security and safeguards. The Regulatory Council also promulgated a regulation to nominate the High Court in Colombo judicial zone as the high court for prosecution of offences under the Atomic Energy Act. The Regulatory Council has also taken steps to draft Ionizing Radiation Protection Regulations and Source Security Regulations in line with IAEA model regulations and are expected to promulgate in 2020.

With the cooptation of IAEA under the project of the technical cooperation project cycle 2020-2021 to the IAEA which has already been approved, it is envisaged to develop all aspects of regulatory work, meeting international requirements.

The Council has taken steps to increase awareness among stakeholders in collaboration with the IAEA on legal and regulatory requirements necessary for licensing of a nuclear power plants. The Regulatory Council intends to amend the existing Act to incorporate requirements for licensing of a nuclear power plants meeting international standards.

Madam President,

The Agency's continued assistance to its Member States in producing radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals through capacity building and the dissemination and transfer of

knowledge contributing to improved health care and sustainable industrial development is of great value. We are pleased that technical assistance will be forthcoming under the next biennium programme commencing in 2020. Establishment of Medical Cyclotron Facility for the production of radiopharmaceuticals needed for molecular imaging techniques used in cancer patient management is one of the projects preliminary selected to be implemented under next TC programme and will be immensely beneficial to the country.

Strengthening the regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety & source security in Sri Lanka is another important project preliminary approved by the Agency which is to be implemented by the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council in order to achieve the expected outcome of the project.

The northern area of the country which is a former conflict affected area is now being developed with essential infrastructures. The project “Establishing a Nuclear Medicine Unit ‘Radioimmunoassay Laboratory’ at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna” is one of the projects being implemented under 2018/19 TC programme and will be immensely beneficial for the people in this area.

Sri Lanka is also receiving technical assistance through the project “Enhancing Water Resource Management” in order to contribute to clean drinking water supply for the communities that lack accessibility to clean water in the dry zone of Sri Lanka.

Having understood the national importance of the Chronic Kidney Disease issue in Sri Lanka, during the visit of Director General of the Agency to Sri Lanka, he has made arrangements to send two experts to study this issue. Sri Lanka acknowledges this initiative with deep appreciation.

Sri Lanka is looking forward to hosting the RCA NR meeting in 2019 in Colombo. The Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board has commenced organizing activities in order to make this meeting a success.

Madam President,

Sri Lanka greatly acknowledges the assistance received through the IAEA TC Programme in various fields where nuclear technology can be utilized and look forward to acquiring more opportunities in the field of nuclear science and technology.

Madam President,

I wish to thank Director General Amano and the Secretariat of the IAEA for the excellent arrangements made for this conference as well as for their excellent cooperation with Sri Lanka in all aspects of the Agency's work. We look forward to continuing to working with the IAEA in a spirit of cooperation.

Thank you