

o

Palau Statement to Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science
and Technology 2018: Addressing Current and Emerging
Development Challenges - Programme

28-30 November 2018

Remarks as Delivered

Honorable Ms. Faustina K. Rehuher-Marugg
Minister
Ministry of State
The National Capitol
Republic of Palau

Wednesday, 28 November 2018

Co-Chairs, Distinguished delegates, honored guests,
ladies & gentlemen.

I convey profound appreciation on behalf of the
Government of the Republic of Palau for the continued
support and assistance rendered by IAEA.

I bring warm greetings to you all from the President of
the Republic of Palau, His Excellency Tommy E.
Remengesau, Jr. and the Honorable Vice
President/Minister of Justice Raynold B. Oilouch.

Co-Chairs,

We gather here today in full support of the important work of the IAEA. My country, the Republic of Palau, is strongly committed to the Agency's goals of ensuring the safe, secure, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy while steadfastly preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Palau is the first Pacific country to ratify the Convention on Nuclear Arms Treaty.

Indeed, it is a long-term goal, but we must stand together with IAEA and remain dedicated to this big challenge and task. Palau is a nuclear free-zone country but does join you all in facing the challenge and remains vigilant to stand with IAEA and all Member States as we move towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Palau and many countries present here today have had a chance of participating in the Agency's International Conference on Nuclear Security and we ask the IAEA to continue to increase its focus on nuclear security while assisting its Member States, including Palau, for guidance in building our Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP).

Indeed, nuclear energy plays a great role in our lives as we look collectively at the challenges of working to

reduce carbon emissions while facilitating global development for peace and prosperity.

Though we face continued challenges, let us take this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to strengthening the IAEA and its vital role in preventing proliferation, addressing noncompliance, and expanding access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Co-Chairs,

Allow me to extend on behalf of the Government of Palau highest appreciation to the European Union and all the donor countries who have risen to the challenge and have been supporting the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) to benefit more member states. Palau thanks Director General Amano for his outstanding leadership in the effort to drive resources and focus toward supporting global economic development goals. Palau has benefited while focused to improve its agricultural productivity, food security, health and nutrition, better management of underground water resources, environment, air pollution, marine coastal areas, sustainable energy development, radiation infrastructure safety, nuclear safety and security. In terms of renewable energy, Palau's target is to achieve 45% renewable energy by 2025, and the work had already begun.

Today we are all aware of the demand for nuclear energy over the years and it is still growing rapidly. The challenges we face are many and one of the biggest and powerful challenge is the climate change and we live with its effects, overwhelmingly; and, it is a pressing danger of our time as more storms, severe droughts and intense fires. The costs are large in terms of lives lost and economic impact.

Co-Chairs,

Achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons will take sustained commitment through a concrete and practical step-by-step approach and the IAEA has a significant role to play, a role that requires the best effort and support of all Member States. Let us realize that strengthening the IAEA is worth the effort so that future generations may live in peace and prosperity where nuclear dangers are distant memories.

Mesulang--thank you.