

STATEMENT

by

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Head of the Delegation of Viet Nam to Ministerial Conference on Nuclear
Science and Technology (Vienna, Austria, 28-30 November 2018)

Mr. Yukiya Amano,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, I would like to thank Mr. Yukiya Amano and IAEA for initiatives and hosting this important conference. I also would like to take this opportunity to extend our warm congratulations to the Ms. Epsy Campbell Barr, Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica and Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan for co-chairing this Conference.

Vietnam highly appreciates the tremendous efforts and remarkable achievements made by the Agency in fulfilling its mission in using nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, for sustainable development while ensuring safe and security in nuclear field throughout the world.

2. Based on the achievements over the past 10 years, Viet Nam continues to implement the Strategy for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy for the country's sustainable socio-economic development, ensuring nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.

3. We are pleased to emphasize that within the Viet Nam's Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period of 2016-2021, Viet Nam has received effective and efficient assistance from the IAEA through technical cooperation projects, including nuclear infrastructure development and nuclear technology applications in the fields of health, agriculture, industry, environmental protection, food security, response to climate-change.

Mr. Yukiya Amano,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Agriculture is an important economic sector in Viet Nam. With its enormous potential, nuclear technology is used widely, especially in the mutation breeding. By the end of 2017, Vietnam had 68 new mutant varieties created and made important contribution to ensure food security of the country.

Irradiation activities have increased the ability of irradiation in controlling Vietnam's fresh fruits and seafood to export to some foreign markets in the world. In the field of plant protection, Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) has been continuously received attention for the prevention of harmful insects on dragon fruit.

5. In the health care area, Viet Nam has about 45 nuclear medicine and radiotherapy facilities, including 50 LINAC, 12 PET/CT and 7 Cyclotron Centers. Dalat Nuclear Research Reactor has been utilized effectively in producing radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals used in medicine and industry. This year, approximately Dalat reactor increased operation time to 1.5 times to meet demand in isotopes for cancer treatment. However, Dalat Nuclear Research Reactor and cyclotron centers only contribute approximately 50% demand of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals for nuclear medicine. Private sector investment in nuclear energy becomes more and more important in Vietnam. The Government always supports and creates favourable conditions for small and medium enterprises. For instance, recently Rang Dong company has installed and commissioned a new accelerator for isotope production in VINAGAMMA (VINATOM). The accelerator will provide enough radiopharmaceuticals for Ho Chi Minh city region.

6. Climate change is one of the biggest environmental challenges. Nuclear technology has played an important role in resolving these challenges. Application of isotopes and nuclear techniques in the industries and environmental studies has also been emphasized in Viet Nam through research activities on radioactive emissions, groundwater and surface water studies, climate change research and studies on contamination causes in some areas of Viet Nam.

7. Along with strengthening cooperation with the IAEA, Viet Nam continues to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the United States, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia Federation, France, India, the EC and other countries

in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy, with emphasizing on nuclear science and technology applications for socio-economic development.

Mr. Yukiya Amano,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. We are pleased to inform you that during this Conference we will sign an Agreement between Vietnam and IAEA assigning Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute as the IAEA Collaborating Center, as a sidelines event. This Center will play an important role in nuclear technique and isotopic application for the environmental research and protection in Vietnam and in the ASEAN region.

9. In addition to cooperation with IAEA and developed nuclear and science technology countries, Vietnam is also actively strengthening cooperation with ASEAN countries. Recently, Vietnam has promoted the implementation of trilateral TC projects between Vietnam-IAEA-Laos and Vietnam-IAEA-Cambodia on the application of atomic energy in agriculture, health and radiation safety infrastructure.

10. Vietnam is actively cooperating with Russian Federation in the Project of Center for Nuclear Energy Science and Technology (CNEST) with the new research reactor construction about 10 MW. We are pleased to inform you that on 19 November 2018, the Prime Minister of Vietnam has approved Pre-FS report CNEST. It is expected that with such a high power research reactor, need of nuclear education, advanced research and need of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals in the country will be met.

Mr. Yukiya Amano,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Viet Nam continues to strengthen cooperation with the IAEA in implementing detailed plans approved by Prime Minister of Vietnam for the development of radiation and isotopic applications for socio-economic development. On the another hand, we are also active preparing plans for development of atomic energy application in the period up to 2030 and vision to 2050.

12. In conclusion, Vietnam Delegation fully supports for the IAEA's activities in strengthening and promoting the application of nuclear science and technology for a world of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity.

Thank you for your kind attention./.