

**Statement of the Philippines
by the Hon. Fortunato de la Peña
Secretary of Science and Technology**

Her Excellency, Madam Epsy Campbell Barr, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica,
His Excellency Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Director General Yukiya Amano,

Colleagues, distinguished guests and delegates,

It is an honor to join you in this Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, with theme of “Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges.” The presence of so many ministers and senior officials here today attests to the value of the Agency’s work, and the high regard that Member States continue to place in its mandate.

I commend the Co-Chairs, Vice President Barr and Vice Minister Tsuji, for their tireless dedication in ensuring the success of this Conference. I assure you of the Philippine Delegation’s full support.

I congratulate Director General Amano and Deputy Director General Aldo Malavasi, as well as the Friends of *Renovation of Nuclear Applications Laboratories*, or ReNuAL, for the successful launch of the new Nuclear Applications Laboratory in Seibersdorf.

This marks another milestone in the ReNuAL and ReNuAL Plus projects, which puts this gathering into the right perspective. We are encouraged by the increasing number of Member States that contribute to this laudable initiative.

For the Philippines, this Conference serves as a welcome opportunity to reaffirm the commitment to realizing the full benefits of nuclear science and technology, and to acknowledge their role in the attainment of our national development goals.

Technical Cooperation between the Philippines and the IAEA goes way back. Through the years, this partnership has produced significant achievements that have been beneficial in helping improve the quality of life of Filipinos.

We are pleased with the implementation of our current Country Programme Framework, which serves as a concrete step forward towards positive engagement with the IAEA. It will certainly contribute to efforts in realizing our national development plans, including the medium-term plan for 2017-2020 and *AmBisyonNation* (Our Vision) 2040 of President Rodrigo Duterte.

We hope that the IAEA, through its Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, will continue to be a credible partner of the Philippines, as well as other developing Member States, in our pursuit to achieve sustainable development. Nuclear science and technology provides very innovative alternatives in the face of emerging

challenges, such as climate change and its adverse effects, and the rising incidence of non-communicable diseases.

That said, we fully support the Secretariat's initiatives in the fields of food and agriculture, land and water resource management, sterile insect techniques, radiopharmaceuticals, and disease management, among others.

Further, as we fulfill our commitments under the Paris Agreement, and also as we also seek to meet our growing energy requirements, the Philippines pursues to find clean, sustainable energy sources. We appreciate the assistance extended to us by the IAEA in this regard.

In the Philippine exhibition and side event, we will take a look at the success stories of the Philippines-IAEA partnership, specifically in the fields of food security, nuclear medicine, and water resources. I invite everyone this afternoon, and to the side event on Friday, with the hope that those feats would add impetus to our shared efforts in addressing common challenges.

The IAEA's TC Programme remains an important vehicle to assist Member States through needs-based capacity building to use nuclear science and technology. The Philippines will continue to fulfill its financial commitments, including pledges for the TC Fund, in full and on time.

My delegation likewise highlights the significance of addressing the underrepresentation of women in nuclear science and technology.

After more than sixty (60) years, the role of the IAEA has evolved to include providing Member States with capacity to uplift the daily lives of their peoples through the help of nuclear science. My delegation lauds the IAEA Secretariat, under the leadership of Director General Amano, for their commitment to fulfil the IAEA's noble tasks under the banner of *Atoms for Peace and Development*.

At this juncture, I congratulate Vice President Barr and Minister Tsuji for the job well done in the preparations for this Conference.

In closing, allow me to convey my warmest thanks to you all. I look forward to joining everyone towards a fruitful Conference.

Thank you.

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