

**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AT
THE 63RD IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE DELIVERED BY
AMBASSADOR UMEJ BHATIA, 16-20 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Madam President
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates

My delegation would like to congratulate Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu of Mexico on her election as President of this General Conference.

You can count on Singapore's full support and cooperation.

I would also like to express, on behalf of my delegation, our deep sorrow at the passing of the South African Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Ms Bavelile Hlongwa last Friday.

I also take this opportunity to express our sadness at the passing of former Director General Yukiya Amano in July.

Even as we mourn this untimely loss, we believe that his professionalism and diplomacy left behind a legacy that we can and will build upon in the years to come.

Part of this legacy was the major role he played in overseeing the effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was signed more than four years ago.

Today, the international community is facing tough questions over a number of nuclear non-proliferation compliance issues, against a backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions.

These developments have implications on the work of the IAEA.

Madam President,

The US' withdrawal from the JCPOA last May has compelled the remaining parties to search for ways to sustain the agreement.

The way forward is not yet clear.

To this end, we welcome the ongoing dialogue between the parties to the JCPOA.

We encourage them to intensify efforts to reach a practical solution that addresses each other's concerns.

The full and effective implementation of the JCPOA by all parties is critical to its efficacy.

Singapore is therefore concerned by the latest developments following Iran's decision to cease implementing some of its commitments under the JCPOA since July 2019, and its announcement earlier this month to further scale back its commitments.

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

What is at stake today is not just the JCPOA, but the wider international nuclear non-proliferation architecture.

Madam President,

On the Korean Peninsula, Singapore welcomes the positive engagements in the past year, including meetings between US President Donald Trump and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un, and the inter-Korean Summits.

Singapore supports engagement and constructive dialogue to resolve differences and promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Nevertheless, we remain concerned about the developments on the Korean Peninsula.

We urge the DPRK to fulfil its commitments through concrete steps, avoid actions that may escalate tensions in the region, and abide by its longstanding international obligations, including those under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Singapore takes our obligations under these UNSC resolutions seriously.

We implement them consistently and rigorously, including by prosecuting those who have violated our domestic laws which give effect to these sanctions.

Madam President,

Like all international organisations, the IAEA faces the challenge of keeping pace with breakneck developments in technology.

New nuclear technologies are being developed, and they have the potential to benefit us in a safer, more secure, and more sustainable manner.

To harness this potential, it is important for there to be regulations and guidelines on the use of such technologies.

We call on the Agency to ensure that its Nuclear Safety guidance documents remain up to date with new technologies such as Small, Medium-sized or Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Transportable Nuclear Power Plants (TNPPs).

In addition, nuclear incidents can have transboundary effects.

The IAEA's EPR Standards Committee (EPReSC) does very important work in helping Member States to build Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) capacities.

Singapore is privileged to support the IAEA's work through our representation on the EPReSC.

Madam President,

Singapore has consistently underscored the importance of strengthening nuclear security.

Any loss or theft of nuclear or radioactive material could lead to catastrophe.

While not seen as the most imminent of threats, the risk of nuclear and radioactive terror attacks must be taken seriously, given the increasing ubiquity of nuclear technology in every-day life.

Singapore therefore supports the IAEA's central role as the foremost authority on providing sound nuclear security guidance, through its expert missions, planning tools, and the Nuclear Security Series guidance documents.

We also commend the IAEA's efforts to promote the universalisation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment.

We look forward to supporting the Agency in the organisation of the 2021 Review Conference of Contracting Parties to the CPPNM and its Amendment.

Madam President,

Technical cooperation is an integral part of the IAEA's mission.

The IAEA plays a critical role in helping developing Member States, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, achieve their developmental goals.

We also support the IAEA's work in contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Technical Cooperation Programme is the main vehicle through which such assistance is provided by the IAEA to the Member States.

It is imperative that the TC Programme is sufficiently resourced in order for the IAEA to effectively fulfil its mandate.

For our part, Singapore is pleased at the progress of the Singapore-IAEA Third Country Training Programme (TCTP).

We have conducted several regional workshops on topics such as emergency preparedness and response, nuclear regulatory law, and food safety, and hosted several training fellowships.

We will continue to play an active and constructive role to support the IAEA's work.

Madam President,

We are pleased to have the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi in Vienna this week to sign the ASEAN-IAEA Practical Arrangements.

The Practical Arrangements will deepen the institutional links between ASEAN and the IAEA, and pave the way for many more years of substantive and fruitful cooperation.

The IAEA has done well over the past year in managing the challenging developments in key issues under its remit.

We look to the IAEA to support its members in tackling new and evolving challenges in the coming year, while maintaining its impartiality integrity, and professionalism.

Singapore stands ready to support the IAEA in discharging its mandate.

All Member States should adopt a spirit of trust, forbearance, and fellowship so that the IAEA's agenda can remain focussed on delivering the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to its Member States.

Thank you, Madam President.

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