

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Le Dung

Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Austria

Head of the Delegation of Viet Nam to the 3rd ICONS

(Vienna, Austria, 10-14 February 2020)

Co-Presidents,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to extend my warm greetings to you as Co-Presidents of the Third International Conference on Nuclear Security. I firmly believe that with your rich experience and excellent leadership, you will lead this Conference to great success.

1. The application of radiation technologies has increased sharply in various fields in Viet Nam from agriculture, industry to health and environment protection, contributing to improve the life quality for our people. However, this application poses a great responsibility for Viet Nam to ensure nuclear safety and security.

In response to new and emerging risks related to nuclear security, we would like to emphasize the essential of full implementation of international instruments, such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment. We highly appreciate the recently concluded Ministerial Declaration and strongly believe that the Declaration will help to enhance the international cooperation ensuring nuclear security.

2. Viet Nam has closely coordinated with the IAEA within the framework of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan, and other partners to improve our national nuclear security regime. In 2019 for instance, our Prime Minister publicized the National Action Plan in the period of 2019-2025 which creates a solid legal foundation for Viet Nam's agencies and localities to quickly cope with radioactive and nuclear risks and incidents.

Besides that, Viet Nam's personnel have been developed through capacity building and technology transfer programmes on nuclear security, including projects on installation of radiation detection system at major border gates and coordinated research activities on emerging technologies for nuclear security detection.

Distinguished delegates,

3. The development of new nuclear technology, including Transportable Nuclear Power Plants (TNPPs) creates attention about safe and secure operation as well as possible impacts on the marine environment. As a state with a long coastline, we would like to emphasize the obligation of states under the international law of the sea, especially the duty of marine environment protection. In this regard, the development of marine based TNPPs shall comply with obligations and appropriate practices to ensure nuclear safety and security and avoid negative impacts on the marine environment. We call upon the IAEA to play central role in gathering all stakeholders and consolidating international frameworks for safe and secure operation of TNPPs.

4. Finally, Viet Nam reaffirms our full support for IAEA's activities in strengthening and promoting peaceful application of nuclear science and technology. We are confident that IAEA's assistance will help developing states to fruitfully achieve their goals in safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy for socio-economic development.

Thank you for your attention./.