

**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AT
THE 65TH IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE DELIVERED BY
AMBASSADOR UMEJ BHATIA, 20-24 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1 Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr President on your election as President of this General Conference. Singapore will give you our full support and cooperation. My delegation also welcomes Saint Kitts and Nevis as the newest member of the IAEA, and thanks Director General Grossi and the Secretariat for their efforts in carrying out the IAEA's important work despite the protracted challenges of COVID-19.

Mr President,

2 The IAEA has been a steadfast partner of the international community, whether in pandemic response, performing safeguards verification, or in helping developing countries attain the Sustainable Development Goals through the safe and secure application of nuclear technology. Over the years, the Agency has built up its internationally-trusted brand of professionalism, objectivity, and technical competence across all these areas of work. This is instrumental in helping the Agency to effectively discharge its mandate.

3 Singapore welcomes the resumption of dialogue aimed at restoring the full and effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Nevertheless, we remain deeply concerned that some of its thresholds continue to be tested. The JCPOA continues to play a crucial role, even today, in the international nuclear non-proliferation architecture. It is imperative that all parties avoid further escalation, intensify efforts to uphold their respective obligations, and work in good faith towards the successful conclusion of the negotiations.

4 Recent developments in the DPRK are a cause for concern. We urge the DPRK to take concrete steps to fulfil its international obligations, including those under the relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, and avoid provocative actions that may escalate tensions in the region. Singapore takes our obligations under the relevant UNSC resolutions seriously. We implement them

rigorously, including by prosecuting those who have violated our domestic laws which give effect to these sanctions. Singapore has been a strong advocate for meaningful engagement and constructive dialogue to resolve differences and promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. We look forward to the resumption of such dialogue.

5 Turning to the civilian front, we continue to see advances in the development of new nuclear technologies, including in Transportable Nuclear Power Plants, Small, Medium-sized, or Modular Reactors, and advanced nuclear power reactors. It is crucial that the IAEA continues to play a central role in enhancing nuclear safety and security. This would allow Member States to harness the benefits of nuclear power in a safe, secure, and sustainable manner. In addition to its multifaceted support to Member States, we encourage the IAEA to regularly update its guidance documents to keep pace with the latest technological advancements.

6 An integral part of the IAEA's mission lies in technical cooperation, which plays a critical role in helping developing Member States, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, tackle ever evolving challenges, and achieve their developmental goals. As the main vehicle through which the IAEA provides such assistance to Member States, it is imperative that the TC Programme is sufficiently resourced. Singapore will continue to support the IAEA on this front, including through renewing the Singapore-IAEA Third Country Training Programme. Having signed the 2021-2025 Country Programme Framework in May, we also look forward to the IAEA's guidance in the implementation of our technical cooperation projects.

7 We greatly appreciate the support rendered by the IAEA to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the safe and secure utilisation of radiation and nuclear technologies. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration, including through the 2019 IAEA-ASEAN Practical Arrangements.

Mr President,

8 Under Director General Grossi's leadership, the Agency has navigated the pandemic over the last two years, and continued to deliver strong support to Member States, both in pandemic response as well as in other aspects of its core work. We are confident that it will continue to do so. Singapore will

continue to support the IAEA, and will work with fellow Member States to ensure that the Agency can fully discharge its mandate.

Thank you, Mr President.

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663 Words (approx. 5.1 minutes at 130 wpm)