

General Statement of the Republic of Indonesia
At the 66th General Conference of the IAEA
26 – 30 September 2022
Delivered by the Chairman of the National Research and Innovation Agency
Mr. Laksana Tri Handoko

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to join others in congratulating you on your appointment as the President of the 66th Session of the General Conference.

My delegation is confident that your able leadership will enable us to achieve the General Conference's objectives. Rest assured of our support and cooperation.

Mr./Madam President,

Indonesia welcomes the progress and central role of the IAEA in its contribution towards strengthening disarmament and the non-proliferation regime, and promoting international cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my delegation's concern regarding global tensions and the security situation.

The gap between nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament remains wide, and the number of nuclear weapons continues to increase at an alarming rate. More work needs to be done, and our collective endeavors need to be strengthened, in order to achieve nuclear weapon free zones around the globe.

The 2020 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which was postponed until 2022, has come and gone without achieving consensus on an outcome. This failure threatens to create a major trust deficit between nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states. Nevertheless, we are of the view that member states must continue to accelerate global efforts in achieving general and complete disarmament as set out in Article VI of the NPT. In addition, we first need to restore our confidence in nuclear safety, security, and safeguards.

Mr. President,

Indonesia attaches great importance to international cooperation. Within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy or ASEANTOM, Indonesia continues to support the current and future endeavors of the IAEA to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, through the endorsement of the Plan of Action of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

The IAEA also plays a key role in guiding the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, as well as addressing the current global circumstances, and assisting member states in achieving their development goals, through the promotion of clean energy, addressing challenges related to plastic waste, and strengthening cooperation in the field of food safety and health. We also note with appreciation the IAEA's ZODIAC initiative, as part of its contribution to international efforts to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, and which will help the world respond to and prevent future zoonotic disease outbreaks.

Indonesia recognizes and supports the IAEA's roles, which remain central in assisting Member States to fulfil their obligations for nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Strengthening nuclear security must not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, nor undermine the established priorities of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme.

Mr. President,

As a State Party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) and the Joint Convention, Indonesia is committed to maintaining a high level of safety by establishing fundamental safety principles in the operation of Indonesia's research reactors. Indonesia is also committed to the immediate implementation of its national radioactive waste management road map.

Furthermore, we also welcome the Agency's efforts under the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI), in promoting the development of global standards for nuclear energy infrastructure for advanced reactor technology, while prioritizing safety and security standards at the highest level, as well as the transfer of technology to all member states. Indonesia stands ready to render its full support to this end. We have also nominated experts to serve in the Working Groups under this initiative.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,**

It is an honor for me to take this opportunity to inform this Conference that the President of the Republic of Indonesia has established a National Research and Innovation Agency, or BRIN. The roles of this Agency, among others, are to develop policies on how to strengthen, improve and accelerate capacity building in science and technology development. One of its main objectives is achieving development goals based on science, technology and innovation, including nuclear science and technology.

Allow me to highlight one of the main strategic plans of BRIN, namely the establishment of a human resources capacity building programme, including in the area of advanced nuclear technology. BRIN also plans to develop an integrated nuclear complex including small modular reactors, a cyclotron and electron beam machines.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all IAEA member states to collaborate with our Agency, including in the development and, later, utilization of this integrated nuclear complex.

Mr. President,

My government appreciates the Agency's assistance under the TC framework in addressing plastic waste problems and initiating a pilot project for the transfer of knowledge, expertise and technology in this field. Indonesia believes this initiative will contribute to global efforts in addressing marine and environment challenges.

In the context of Indonesia's Presidency of the G20, Indonesia highly appreciates the IAEA's support in the field of nuclear energy during our G20 Presidency, including by providing expertise and assistance to the *Energy Transition Working Group*.

For Indonesia, the contribution of new and renewable energy, including nuclear energy in the national energy mix to secure the energy supply and support the transition to clean energy, is essential. Indonesia has initiated several measures, with the support of the IAEA, prior to a decision on using nuclear power. Indonesia welcomes all IAEA Member States to take part in nuclear application programs that will increase capacity building initiatives, enhance nuclear infrastructure, accelerate the technical preparation for nuclear applications in industry and health, and foster innovation.

Finally, Mr. President, my delegation has been following closely the discussion on naval nuclear propulsion since the NPT RevCon. We note with appreciation the working paper of the NPT President on the final document, which reflects on the interests of the States Parties to the Treaty in this topic and that Non-Nuclear Weapon States should engage with the IAEA in an open and transparent manner.

It is my delegation's view that the IAEA should continue discussion on these matters, in order to find a solution, or technical answers, to the current developments foreseen by the existing legal framework. Efforts in this direction are important in addressing the ongoing and similar future programs, as well as the fact that an implementation of any nuclear naval propulsion by non-nuclear weapon states will set a global precedent.

I thank you.

Vienna, 26 September 2022