



STATEMENT BY

**THE HONOURABLE
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MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**66th REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA),**

**27 SEPTEMBER 2022 | TUESDAY
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,**

Good morning and warm greetings to all – our World Family of Nations,

Introduction

1. At the outset, Malaysia would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Alessandro Cortese for being elected as the President of the 66th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference.

2. We welcome Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Tonga as the newest Member States of the IAEA.

Nuclear Safety

Distinguished Delegates.

3. Malaysia is collaborating with the IAEA in developing the first borehole facility for the disposal of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources. This facility re-emphasises our effort to build a robust nuclear safety infrastructure. We truly appreciate the IAEA's continuous support, in ensuring the successful implementation of this project.
4. Our country has also shared data from the Environmental Radiation Monitoring System stations located in two states in Malaysia, namely Kelantan and Selangor, through the IAEA International Radiation Monitoring Information System.
5. In addition, we are looking forward to the establishment of the Nuclear Response Team Simulation Training Centre in 2023. This facility will cater for the emergency preparedness and response, for nuclear and radiological accidents as well as nuclear security incident.

Nuclear Security and Safeguard

Distinguished Delegates.

6. Malaysia serves as a regional hub for nuclear security detection equipment under the Partnership Agreement on the Establishment of a Loaner Pool for Radiation Detection Equipment in Enhancing Support for Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region.
7. We welcome the Asia-Pacific Members to request the usage of such equipment through the IAEA. Malaysia has agreed in principle to IAEA's proposal to use the equipment in support of Qatar in conjunction with the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
8. We appreciate IAEA's continuous support in implementing the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan in Malaysia. Malaysia wishes to share that we will be hosting the revision of the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service Mission next month. We believe this mission will further assist Malaysia in completing the gap review for improvement in the existing security mechanisms.
9. Our nation appreciates IAEA's initiative on the Comprehensive Capacity-Building Initiative for State System of Accounting for Control and State Authority Responsible for Safeguards Implementation (COMPASS).

10. In this regard, we are fully committed to make continuous progress in tandem with the COMPASS Work Plan 2021-2022. Malaysia welcomes the IAEA's support in developing safeguards documents to strengthen the implementation and sustain the effectiveness of the programme.

Technical Cooperation

Distinguished Delegates.

11. Our nation highly values the long-standing cooperation for the Technical Cooperation Program for safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology. Moving forward, we will conclude the Country Programme Framework 2022-2027.

12. This reflects our future priorities to further strengthen national capability and capacity in various applications of nuclear science and technology, including advanced reactor and nuclear fusion technologies.

13. We will sign the Practical Arrangement with the IAEA to provide training in areas such as radiation, transport and waste safety. Malaysia highly appreciates the IAEA's assistance in promoting nuclear science and technology.

Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications

14. In terms of international technical cooperation, Malaysia is proud to receive the IAEA assistance in developing a new paddy variety, the IS21, using radiation mutation breeding that is resistant to extreme climate. The government believes that this paddy variety, together with innovative water and fertilizer management, will help strengthen the country's food security. We are ready to extend our experience and expertise with other Members States toward our mutual goals.

15. We appreciate the IAEA's assistance in various coordinated research projects to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information. Malaysia is also honoured by the IAEA's recognition as IAEA Collaborating Centres in the field of radiation processing, advanced non-destructive testing and plant mutation breeding. Hence, we look forward to renew the designation of IAEA Collaborating Centres to continue sharing our expertise with other Member States.

16. Malaysia applauds IAEA's new initiative "Rays of Hope" in helping Member States to respond to the growing cancer burden. As a medical doctor myself, I believe this initiative gives hope for a better solution in combatting cancer. We are ready to support the IAEA on this initiative.

Conclusion

Distinguished Delegates.

17. The world continues to face enormous existential challenges, paramount of which are the climate crisis and COVID-19 pandemic recovery that have caused unprecedented food insecurity and energy insecurity burdens.

18. In the context of our discourse at this General Conference, the serious political, security and economic repercussions of the conflict in Ukraine are being felt all over the world, including Malaysia. The Zaporizhzia nuclear power plant question demands urgent response from the IAEA in order to ensure its safety and security, and that its nuclear material remains under the safeguards regime.

19. We all share the same concerns. We should play our respective roles in overcoming the challenges we face. We have to do it together as one big family – the World Family. “United we stand, divided we fall”. We shall only succeed if we are united and strong together in shouldering this collective burden.

20. In conclusion, Malaysia appreciates the IAEA’s continuous efforts to promote transparency, efficiency and accountability in nuclear technology application for safe and peaceful purposes.

21. Malaysia reiterates our firm commitment and continuous support to IAEA, including through timely contributions.

Thank you.