

## PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

### **DOST SECRETARY RENATO SOLIDUM, JR. 66<sup>th</sup> IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE 26-30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Mr. President,  
Director General Grossi,  
Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

1. The Philippines conveys its warm congratulations to you on your appointment as President of the 66th IAEA General Conference, and assures you of my delegation's full cooperation and support.
2. We likewise express our sincere appreciation to the Agency for its valuable efforts in "accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world." We express our sincere appreciation to Director General Rafael Grossi and his hard-working team for their unwavering dedication and professionalism.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Conference resumes its work in-person against the backdrop of a fragile and highly uncertain environment with ongoing COVID-19 cases, economic slowdown and the reversal of development gains, the adverse impacts of climate change, and geopolitical tensions. The IAEA, with its motto of Atoms for Peace and Development, has a very important role to play.
4. We attach importance to the Agency's research and development activities on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. These peaceful applications, when deployed to Member States, support their respective development efforts – be it providing clean and reliable energy; ensuring food and water security; detecting and managing diseases; supporting industrial development, among others.
6. With the valuable support of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, the Philippines continues to strengthen its capacity in various nuclear applications. We look forward to signing a new Country Programme Framework (CPF) on the margins of the Conference later this week, which will continue to guide our cooperation with the Agency in the next six years. Our new CPF covers cooperation in the following five areas:
7. In the field of **food and agriculture** – Our new CPF will focus on the areas of food authenticity, plant breeding and soil and water management. Through plant mutation breeding as well as other nuclear and isotopic techniques, we hope to develop crops that are high yielding and resistant to different biotic and abiotic stresses, improve agricultural practices to enhance soil fertility and

## **PHILIPPINE STATEMENT (Draft)**

*(check against delivery)*

increase food production, improve food safety for human consumption, and support agricultural exports.

8. In the field of **natural resources and the environment** – we hope to improve the management of pollution and radioactivity in the ridge-to-reef environment, covering both terrestrial as well as marine ecosystems. We will use nuclear and isotopic techniques to identify sources of and monitor transport of pollution and contaminants.
9. In the field of **human health and nutrition** – we hope to increase radiopharmaceutical production, improve nuclear medicine services for improved management of patients with non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and heart diseases, improve medicine services for nuclear and radiation emergencies; enhance national capacities for the control of disease-carrying mosquito vectors; and improve scientific inputs to reduce stunting and malnutrition among children under five. We have started construction of a Nuclear Medicine Research and Innovation Center that will house a medical cyclotron and a PET-CT imaging facility, to make cancer staging and management more accessible to the Filipino people. We have established a biodosimetry facility that aims to monitor radiation risk in the population.
10. In the field of **energy and industry** – we look forward to improving our national capacities in energy planning, taking into consideration the potential integration of nuclear power. We look forward to the operation of the Philippine research reactor, PRR-1 SATER, which was commissioned in June 2022. This research reactor will support education and training in nuclear science and technology in the Philippines, as well as enhance our national capacity in research, development and innovation.
11. We look forward to strengthening our national capacity in **nuclear and radiation safety, including radioactive waste management, as well as in nuclear security**, to protect people and the environment from the adverse effects of ionizing radiation. We appreciate the Agency's issuance of guidance and technical documents, provision of advisory and peer review services, and conduct of training events on the safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology. We likewise appreciate the IAEA's support on various nuclear safety and security matters, including through the Radiation Safety Information Management System (RASIMS) as well as the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP). We congratulate the Agency for the successful hosting of the Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in March.
12. The Philippines is set to welcome next week a team of eleven IAEA experts for the conduct of the Occupational Radiation Protection Appraisal Service (ORPAS) to check the legislative and regulatory infrastructure and practical implementation of our occupational radiation protection programme.

## PHILIPPINE STATEMENT (Draft)

(check against delivery)

13. As part of our efforts to broaden public understanding and confidence in nuclear science and technology, the Philippines celebrates its annual Atomic Energy Week every second week of December, to develop national consciousness of the benefits of peaceful uses, especially among the youth. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the AEW Celebration.
14. We attach great importance to the *Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA)*, which is celebrating 50 years this year. Under the RCA, Asia Pacific States jointly promote and coordinate research, development and training projects in nuclear science and technology, with the support of the IAEA.
15. The Philippines appreciates the Agency's continuing efforts to identify nuclear applications to address the world's most pressing developmental challenges, leading to the development of flagship initiatives such as ZODIAC, ReNuAL2, NUTEC Plastics, Rays of Hope and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP).

Mr. President,

16. The Philippines considers the Agency's **safeguards and verification** function as the backbone of the global nuclear non-proliferation agenda, as it provides the international community assurances that nuclear material, facilities and activities remain exclusively under peaceful uses. We reiterate the paramount importance of States' compliance with their respective obligations under the relevant safeguards agreements, as well as the provision of full cooperation to the Agency as it fulfills its independent and impartial work. The Philippines takes this opportunity to reiterate its principled position that the world should be free of nuclear weapons, and that their total elimination is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of nuclear weapons.
17. Finally, we underscore the importance of international cooperation and capacity-building. Enhancing bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation on peaceful uses offer us opportunities to transcend geopolitical divides and work together for both peace and development.

Thank you, Mr. President.