

STATEMENT
by
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Head of the Viet Nam Delegation to the Sixty-seventh
Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference
(*Vienna, Austria, 25-29 September 2023*)

Madame President,

1. On behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to you on your election as the President of the Sixty-seventh Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference and to Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi for his appointment as the Director General of IAEA for the second term. I am convinced that the General Conference will achieve great success.

2. Viet Nam appreciates the tremendous efforts and remarkable achievements of the Agency in fulfilling its mission in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to develop and ensure safety and security throughout the world.

Madame President,
Distinguished delegates,

3. In this regard, Viet Nam reaffirms its commitment to promote the application of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, for sustainable development, especially in solving problems and global issues through the IAEA initiatives such as ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastic, and Rays of Hope programs in which Viet Nam will cooperate with the Agency to implement.

4. From the national perspective, we would like to thank for and affirm that the cooperation and support of the IAEA through technical cooperation projects plays an important role, in helping Viet Nam to implement its new research reactor project and to gain important achievements in the application of nuclear energy in various fields, such as health-care, agriculture, industry, research, environmental protection, water resources, response to climate change and radiation & nuclear safety infrastructure development, etc. For the cycle 2022-2023, besides implementing six (6)

national technical cooperation projects, Viet Nam also participates in many regional and inter-regional projects. For the cycle 2024-2025, Viet Nam has completed designing six (6) new national projects, which will be officially approved by the end of this year.

5. Also under the TC Programme, Viet Nam has made efforts to implement the Practical Arrangements for Triangular Cooperation with Cambodia, Lao PDR, which leverage contributions and resources from Viet Nam to support the implementation of the IAEA's TC programme and to promote greater technical cooperation among developing countries. We are delighted that under the extended Practical Arrangements, significant results have been achieved this year.

6. In the field of nuclear security, the IAEA continues to support Viet Nam to strengthening its nuclear security regime through the accomplishment of the RPM system installation in Tan Son Nhat International Airport; and especially performing the INSServ Mission in March this year, which has assisted the country in identifying specific needs and developing future activities needed to detect, prevent, and respond to unauthorized acts involving materials out of regulatory control.

During the past year, Viet Nam has made efforts to accompany the IAEA inspectors to conduct in-field safeguards activities as well as perform domestic safeguards in the country. Viet Nam has appropriately corresponded to each of the Agency verification requests, which continuously affirmed its national commitment to atomic energy applications for peaceful purposes through implementing the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol.

*Madame President,
Distinguished delegates,*

7. Viet Nam has an operating nuclear research reactor located in Da Lat, which has consistently operated with the utmost safety in accordance with the rigorous standards set by the IAEA. The Da Lat nuclear research reactor has played a pivotal role in conducting cutting-edge scientific research, nurturing skilled professionals, and producing essential radiopharmaceuticals, both to cater to the nation's needs and to supply other countries.

Presently, Viet Nam is actively engaged in a significant endeavor, the

construction of a Research Center for Nuclear Science and Technology, equipped with a medium-capacity research reactor boasting 10 MW output. This visionary project aims to replace the aging Da Lat nuclear reactor, ensuring Vietnam's continued commitment to harnessing atomic energy for peaceful purposes to drive socio-economic development.

Viet Nam is grateful for the support extended by the Agency in the implementation of this project, specifically through the TC projects promoting the Reactor Safety Development Programme. Viet Nam anticipates ongoing collaboration with the IAEA, encompassing consultations, human resource development, and more, to ensure the successful execution of this vital project. This collaboration will be especially vital as we embark on essential activities over the next two years, including site surveys and evaluations, and the FS report.

*Madame President,
Distinguished delegates,*

8. In conclusion, Viet Nam appreciates and wishes to thank all IAEA staff for their dedication and efficient performance; I sincerely thank the Agency for its valuable cooperation and assistance. Under the mandate of the IAEA and the guidance of the Board of Governors, you and the Agency can count on the full support of the Government of Viet Nam.

Thank you for your kind attention./.