

**Statement by  
Representative of the Lao PDR**

At the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA  
Vienna, 20 September 2017

**Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Delegation of the Lao PDR, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate your Excellency, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Philippines **Madam Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson** on your election as the President of the 61<sup>st</sup> regular session of the IAEA General Conference. My delegation is convinced that this conference will come to a successful conclusion under your Presidency.

On this occasion, I would like to congratulate **His Excellency Mr. Yukiya Amano** on his re-election as the Director General of the IAEA for the third term. The Lao PDR fully supports him in taking the leadership of the Agency.

My delegation also wishes to warmly welcome Grenada to become a new member state to the IAEA.

**Madam President,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Recognizing the central role played by the Agency in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, security and safeguards and the Agency's tremendous achievements over the past 60 years since its inception, the Lao PDR fully supports the Agency's activities in realizing its mandate and objectives.

As a member of the Agency since 2011, the Lao PDR strongly commits itself to the Agency's course and makes utmost efforts to fulfill the Lao PDR's obligations toward the Agency.

The Government of the Lao PDR attaches a great importance to nuclear safety and security. Therefore, efforts have been deployed to developing nuclear safety and security infrastructure.

In 2014, the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service mission (INSServ) of the IAEA conducted a review of the nuclear safety and security measures in the Lao PDR,

with the view to improving the Lao PDR's national nuclear safety and security system. Recently, a Consultation workshop on formulation of the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) was conducted in Vientiane. As a result, such Plan for the country has been drafted.

Currently, the Lao PDR is also in a process of drafting a national law on radiation and nuclear safety, which is planned to be finalized and submitted to the National Assembly of the Lao PDR for consideration and approval by the end of the year 2018.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the IAEA for organizing the workshop for frontline officers and look forward to the future workshop of its kind, which will involve participation of various folks of professions such as custom and police officers.

The Lao PDR underlines the importance of the IAEA's nuclear science and technology application, which is mainly delivered through the Technical Cooperation Programme. This will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national socio-economic development plans of Member States, including the Lao PDR. The Lao PDR has benefited from the IAEA's activities and assistance through the Agency's trainings and workshops and technical cooperation projects implementation in various areas, including among others, capacity building and knowledge management, radiation safety and security infrastructure, human health, water and environment, and agriculture and food safety and security.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of the Lao PDR, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the Director General and the Agency's Secretariat for their dedicated works in providing support and assistance for our country over the past years.

As an active member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Network of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy in Southeast Asia or ASEANTOM, the Lao PDR reiterates its strong commitments to the implementation of the treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.

Finally, on behalf of Government of the Lao PDR, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Director General, you Madam President and other delegates a good health, happiness and success in your future endeavors.

**Thank you, Madam President.**