



**STATEMENT BY DR MOHD ASHHAR HAJI KHALID
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA
TO THE 61ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
20 SEPTEMBER 2017, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Madam President,

1. At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of this 61st session and welcome Grenada as the newest member of the IAEA. We congratulate Director-General Amano for his reelection to the Agency.

Madam President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

2. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime and the fundamental basis for realizing the goal of general and complete nuclear disarmament. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which Malaysia will become a signatory when it opens for signature in New York on 20 September this year, is a historic milestone, which reaffirms our commitment on the important steps urgently needed to achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament.

3. Malaysia believes that the IAEA plays a key role towards our pursuit to realize the goals of the NPT. We are committed to sustain and build on our mutually beneficial partnership with the IAEA and potential partners in various activities to promote safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

4. As an aspirant of nuclear power programme, Malaysia hosted the first INIR mission in October 2016. We are strongly committed to fulfill our obligations to the international instruments related to nuclear safety, security and safeguards. While awaiting approval for Malaysia's comprehensive nuclear law, we are actively pursuing various preparatory activities for Malaysia to sign, ratify and accede these international instruments without delay.

Safeguards

5. Malaysia recognises the IAEA as the sole competent technical authority for its independent verification of the respective nuclear safeguard obligations of Member States.

6. Malaysia commends the Agency and all parties for their support to the implementation of the JCPOA on Iran's nuclear programme. We believe that continuous transparency and full cooperation among the Agency and all parties concerned would significantly enhance international confidence that Iran's nuclear activities are exclusively peaceful in nature.

7. Malaysia is gravely concerned on the situation in the Korean Peninsula, in particular the DPRK's nuclear tests and series of ballistic missiles launches. We strongly condemn such acts of provocation, as it poses grave threat to international peace and security and seriously undermines the international non-proliferation regime. We call on DPRK to halt all its nuclear and ballistic missile programme, to fully comply with its international obligations, to return promptly to the NPT and allow full and effective implementation of IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards.

Nuclear Security

8. Malaysia welcomes the adoption of the 2018-2021 IAEA Nuclear Security Plan. Our minister's participation in the 2016 International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security attests Malaysia's commitment in this field. We support the universal adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its amendment, although it has yet to accede to the Convention. In realising this objective, we welcome the convening of the International Conference on the CPPNM in November 2017.

9. Malaysia-IAEA collaboration have been fruitful in several activities namely the Malaysia-Thailand Table Top and Field Exercise on Combating illicit Trafficking of radioactive materials, the development of borehole disposal and the mobile hot cell facility. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the donor countries notably Canada, the European Union, Japan and the USA for supporting our nuclear security activities. We highly appreciate the Agency's support to Malaysia's nuclear security capabilities at the recent 2017 Southeast Asian Games.

Nuclear Safety

10. Malaysia attaches great importance to strengthen all aspects of nuclear safety. We believe that the outcome of the 7th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) and its previous meetings will further strengthen States Parties' national capabilities in nuclear safety. Malaysia looks forward to benefit from such meeting as soon as it accedes to the Convention.

11. Malaysia enjoys on-going cooperation with the IAEA in radiation protection and safety, research reactor safety, radiological emergency, environmental monitoring, safety of spent fuel management and radioactive waste management. We will continue to work closely with the Agency and other IAEA Member States to improve and strengthen the relevant aspects of nuclear safety, according to the safety priorities identified in the Director General's report on the 2018 Nuclear Safety Review.

Technical Cooperation Programme

12. Malaysia commends the successful organisation of 2017 International Conference on Technical Cooperation. Malaysia-IAEA cooperation had been rewarding, with shared benefits from various activities under its Third Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2017-2021. For 2016-2017, Malaysia received a total of 30 fellowships, 52 scientific visits and 84 IAEA's experts while a total of 31 Malaysians participated in the IAEA's training courses. During the same cycle, Malaysia offered training and advisory services to 64 experts and hosted a total of 28 fellowships and nine (9) scientific visits.

Nuclear Science, Technology and Application

13. Malaysia recognises the importance of nuclear science and technology and its application, to realising the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this end, Malaysia successfully hosted a seminar with the IAEA and UN Country Team in Kuala Lumpur, in July 2017, to promote greater awareness on the contributions of nuclear technology towards socio-economic development. We look forward to be one of the contributors to the Peaceful Use Initiatives (PUI), given its important role to support the Agency's activities related to peaceful applications of science and technology.

14. We welcome the convening of 2018 Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Applications and the 2017 International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power and look forward to a constructive participation. We are pleased to announce that the Honourable Minister in the Prime Minister's Department will participate at the upcoming 2017 International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in Abu Dhabi.

Research and Development

15. Malaysia recognises ReNuAL's contributions in the scientific and research activities and supports the Agency's efforts to modernise the nuclear applications laboratories under ReNuAL in Seibersdorf. We are honoured to have our IAEA Collaborating Centre (ICC) in the field of Radiation Processing of Natural Polymer and Nano-materials extended for the third term 2016-2020. We look forward to receiving IAEA's recognition for our Gamma Green House.

Madam President,

16. Notwithstanding our firm principle to strike a balance of resources between promotional and non-promotional activities, Malaysia believes that all programmes and activities of the Agency deserve equal merits. We must acknowledge that no action will become reality without adequate and sustainable resources. For this reason, Malaysia will continue to honour its contributions to both the IAEA Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time. We encourage all Member States to do so to enable the Agency to fulfil its responsibilities as provided in the IAEA Statute.

Thank you Madam President