

## **PHILIPPINES**

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Lourdes O. Yparraguirre  
Ambassador and Resident Representative  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the IAEA  
20-24 June 2011**

**Mister President, Distinguished Delegates,**

**The Philippines would like to congratulate you, Mister President, for your able leadership of this Conference. We are confident of achieving a successful outcome.**

**I also wish to thank and commend the Director General and the Secretariat for their dedication and hard work in the area of nuclear safety, and for all their efforts in response to the Fukushima nuclear accident.**

**The Philippines reiterates its solidarity with the people and Government of Japan, and commend the continuing efforts of the international community in providing assistance as they deal with the consequences of the accident.**

**Mister President,**

**What happened in Fukushima can take place in any of the countries along the ring of fire in Asia and the Pacific. While the Philippines currently does not have an operating nuclear power plant, it is surrounded by countries that have existing or are embarking on nuclear power programs. As shown by the Fukushima and Chernobyl nuclear accidents, we cannot be complacent about nuclear safety. A single nuclear incident or accident may have tremendous global or regional consequences not just to people, property and the environment, but also to the future of nuclear energy.**

**The Philippines believes that the IAEA plays a unique and central role in promoting international cooperation in nuclear safety, in particular, by supporting effective and efficient implementation of international legal instruments, developing safety standards, enhancing national safety infrastructures and coordinating international emergency preparedness and response including with CTBTO, WMO, FAO and WHO, and promoting a nuclear safety culture worldwide. Confidence in the use of nuclear energy hinges on the continuous improvement and strengthening of nuclear safety, and the Philippines places great importance on the Agency's programs on this issue.**

**Mr. President,**

**The Philippines looks forward to the draft Action Plan that will be presented by the Director General to the policy-making organs in their forthcoming meetings in 2011. We believe that any Action Plan to be adopted by Member States should build on the outcomes off this Conference and should set ambitious goals and**

**new benchmarks for the strengthening of nuclear safety worldwide. We wish to submit the following elements which we believe should be incorporated in the draft Action Plan.**

**First, the abilities of the International Seismic Safety Center to provide assistance to Member States in external hazard assessment, site selection and site evaluation, as well as in developing relevant IAEA Safety Standards, should be strengthened. The ISSC should look into including additional requirements in the construction of nuclear power plants in seismic zones and disaster-prone areas.**

**Second, States that are embarking on nuclear power programs should commit to create an appropriate nuclear safety infrastructure based on the IAEA Safety Standards and guidance. We call on the Agency to continue to provide assistance, including through the Technical Cooperation Program, in ensuring the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies. Likewise, States that have existing nuclear power programs must adhere to IAEA Safety Standards, and must have action plans relating to emergency preparedness and disaster management in case of a nuclear accident.**

**In this regard, we call on the Agency to continue to update and promote the adoption and implementation of the IAEA Safety Standards through the Legislative Assistance Program, advisory services and national and regional capacity-building activities.**

**Third, it is opportune to review the health and safety inspection mandate of the Agency under Article XII of its Statute. The Agency's approach to nuclear safety has evolved—from the parallel approach between inspections to ensure compliance with health and safety measures and safeguards inspections, to a mere advisory role of providing "practical guidance and effective assistance". At present, review missions are voluntary and reports are confidential, and unless a mechanism is adopted to verify compliance, the application of Safety Standards will remain a matter of national prerogative and control.**

**Fourth, human resource development is a key component for the sustainability of a nuclear program. The Agency should continue to conduct education and training programs and to pursue its regional approach to capacity building through the creation of networks of national capacity building centers.**

**Fifth, we believe in the importance of knowledge networks and regional cooperation in the area of nuclear safety, especially in light of the trans-boundary effects of a nuclear accident. We support the establishment of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum which is aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and best practices.**

**The Philippines is an active member of the Asian Nuclear Safety Network . The ANSN, which has both human and information technology-based components, has been an effective tool for facilitating and enhancing nuclear safety infrastructure development in Member States. We, therefore, propose that the**

**IAEA use the ANSN as a vehicle for channeling the information and lessons learned from the Fukushima accident to Member States in the region.**

**Sixth, the global framework for emergency preparedness and response needs to be revisited, as events following the Fukushima accident showed that a number of the provisions of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, both of which were adopted in 1986 in the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident, should now be updated.**

**Seventh, measures need to be taken to improve the quality, nature and timeliness of information that are provided through the Incident and Emergency Centre. In the days following the accident, the provision of information had lagged noticeably behind coverage of events by the mass media. It was also important for the Philippines to receive the Agency's impartial analysis of all available data to assist our policy-makers in planning emergency protective measures. Procedures relating to coordination with contact points and other international organizations, as well as modalities under existing mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Committee on response to Nuclear Accidents, should also be reviewed.**

**Finally, as more countries are turning to the Agency for assistance in the development of their national infrastructures for expanding or launching nuclear power programs, Member States should enhance their political and financial support for the Agency's programs in this regard.**

**Mister President,**

**While issues confronting the Agency are often complicated by political realities, we welcome the fact that we have somehow managed to overcome our differences in coming together during this Ministerial Conference to advance our common objective of strengthening global nuclear safety. In closing, allow me to affirm the commitment of the Philippines to work with other delegations in a spirit of mutual respect and constructive dialogue.**

**Thank you, Mister President.**