

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

**International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Enhancing Global Efforts
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Delivered by:

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INTRODUCTION

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Philippine Delegation, let me congratulate you on your Presidency of this Conference. You can count on our full support.

We appreciate the efforts of Ambassador Balázs Csuday of Hungary and Ambassador Laércio Antonio Vinhas of Brazil, in coordinating Member States to reach consensus on the Ministerial Declaration.

Mr. President,

The large number of participants at this Conference indicates a strong international alliance on nuclear security that can only enhance and magnify the impact and efficacy of measures implemented by Member States.

The Philippines affirms its commitment to advancing our shared goal of securing nuclear and other radioactive materials that are used for peaceful purposes, and preventing the illicit trafficking of such materials.

This commitment to strengthening nuclear security worldwide stems from the recognition that nuclear security, alongside with nuclear safety, is integral to the continued development and enjoyment of the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

THE PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY PLAN

The Philippines' National Nuclear Security Plan, updated for 2013-2015, has become the basis of the IAEA Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INNSP) for the Philippines. We are amending our national legislations, including the Human Security Act of 2007, to enable us to accede to the relevant nuclear security conventions and to penal provisions under the International Convention in the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM).

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) is revising its 2007 regulation on "Security of Radioactive Sources", and has drafted a regulation on the "Security Requirements in the Transport of Radioactive Material", both in accordance with relevant IAEA guidelines.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Mr. President,

We share the world's concern over the danger posed by nuclear and other radioactive material falling into wrong hands. However, like other countries, we are still challenged by the scientific expertise and resources needed to put in place effective and appropriate national systems for nuclear security.

Nuclear security is indeed a primary responsibility of individual States. At the same time, greater international cooperation, with the IAEA playing a key role, is needed to enhance national capabilities in nuclear security. The GICNT and the Nuclear Security Summits held in Washington and Seoul in 2010 and 2012, respectively, are among the common endeavors that contribute towards the establishment of a global nuclear security regime.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the IAEA Secretariat towards ratification of the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM, as well as the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and Convention of Nuclear Safety.

To enhance the security of spent sources in PNRI, we received a mission of specialists from the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA) in March 2013 to undertake the conditioning of spent high activity radioactive sources (SHARS). We thank the IAEA and donor countries of the Nuclear Security Fund for supporting this important activity.

This year in February, we hosted the “International Forum on Effective Border Controls: Global Status”, which developed recommendations to strengthen border controls in preventing the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

In addition, the Philippines’ adherence to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources has greatly enhanced our national safety and security regime on the management of disused sources.

We also work with our bilateral and regional partners to enable us to further strengthen our national nuclear security framework.

Through the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), we are implementing physical protection upgrades in all radiation facilities using high-risk radioactive sources.

With our participation in the US Megaports Initiative Project, 18 Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs) at the Port of Manila and four at the Cebu International Port have been installed, complemented with periodic training for the Bureau of Customs and the terminal operators.

At the Regional level, we have been collaborating with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO) under the Regional Security of Radioactive Sources (RSRS) Project since 2004 for capacity- building of PNRI, regulators and radioactive material license holders.

In January 2012, the Philippines hosted the Third Review Meeting of the Radiological Security Partnerships to assess the RSRS project, and the implementation by participating member countries of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, the IAEA nuclear Security Series Guidance and the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans.

CONCLUSION

Mr. President,

Addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism and proliferation will also assist in creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the objectives of the NPT.

The Philippines shares the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, and of ensuring that nuclear energy is used only for peaceful purposes. As more countries look at the prospects of injecting nuclear power to meet their increasing need for energy, and as demand for technical cooperation increases, the Agency will continue to play a key role in enabling countries to use science and technology for development and for maintaining international peace and security. The Agency can only do this with a sustained sense of cooperation and strong partnerships with the Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.