



**Kingdom of Cambodia  
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**National Statement**

**of**

**H.E KEO ROTTANAK, Minister of Mines and Energy**

**The IAEA's International Conference of Nuclear Security (ICONS 2024)**

**Ministerial Segment 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 Vienna, Austria.**

***His Excellency Sungat Yessimkhanov, Co-President and Vice Minister of Energy of Republic of Kazakhstan!***

***His Excellency Tim Watts, Co-President and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia***

***His Excellency Rafael Grossi, Director General of the IAEA***

***Distinguished Delegations of the IAEA Member States,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen***

Thank you to the International Atomic Energy Agency for inviting Cambodia to participate in International Conference on Nuclear Security. It is a great honour and pleasure to be here.

Nuclear. It is a topic that has sparked more debates, stirred controversy, and fuelled more emotions than just about anything we have introduced to the world.

On one hand, it is viewed as a potential lifesaver, offering solutions from medical advancements to power generation.

On the other, it is feared for its potential for catastrophic damage.

This duality reflects our deep feelings about the technology - pride in our scientific achievements, yet a sobering reminder of the responsibilities they bring.

This is precisely what led to the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and we are grateful to be here today to discuss nuclear security.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to reiterate that the Royal Government of Cambodia pledges full support to the non-proliferation of nuclear programs and is actively

engaged in ensuring safety, security, and safeguards at the national and regional levels and worldwide.

Cambodia is a signatory to numerous international treaties and agreements that are dedicated to enhancing nuclear and radiation safety and security.

Most recently, in August 2023, we affirmed our political commitment to the IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Supplementary Guidance.

Cambodia is actively considering joining additional international conventions to reinforce our dedication to nuclear safety and security, including the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.

Our commitment is enshrined in our National Constitution of 1993 and its amendments, which absolutely prohibits the manufacturing, use and storage of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

Furthermore, the Royal Government of Cambodia has set up key authorities responsible for managing nuclear and radioactive materials and activities, including the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Secretariat of National Counter Terrorism Committee, and the National Authority of Chemical Weapons.

We also work closely with our international partners, on many aspects ranging from legislation, application of nuclear science and technology in health, industry, agriculture as well as safety, security, and safeguards activities.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We recognise that nuclear materials and technology, including ionizing radiation, offer significant benefits but pose substantial security risks.

Although Cambodia has no nuclear power facilities, we are dedicated to investing in research and development of the national response plan and detection strategy and to staying ahead of emerging threats, whether they will be in the form of illicit trafficking of nuclear materials or attempts to acquire nuclear weapons.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude towards the IAEA's Division of Nuclear Security for their support in enhancing our national capabilities and capacities in the field of nuclear security.

The insights and recommendations provided by the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service Mission have been instrumental in guiding our efforts to reinforce the nuclear security regime in Cambodia.

Our approach to nuclear security is grounded in prevention and preparedness. We are committed to continuing this work, recognising that progress is a continual journey in partnership with the international community.

To further strengthen our national capabilities, we extend an invitation to our partners for ongoing collaboration.

With the support of the IAEA and our partners worldwide, Cambodia is focused on harnessing this technology for beneficial outcomes while ensuring its safety and security.

We express our thanks to the IAEA and Austria for enabling meaningful dialogue, and we look forward to furthering our shared objectives in nuclear security.

Thank you.