

STATEMENT

by

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(VARANS)**

Head of the Delegation of Viet Nam to the 4th ICONS

(Vienna, Austria, 20-24 May 2024)

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to extend my warm greetings to you as President of the Fourth International Conference on Nuclear Security. I firmly believe that with your rich experience and excellent leadership, you will lead this Conference to great success.

1. The application of radiation technologies for Vietnam's socio-economic development has increased significantly and is now present in various fields from agriculture, industry to environment protection and healthcare, contributing to improve the life quality for people and to ensure food security in the context of climate change. Within a wide range of applications, Viet Nam is experiencing a rise in the use of radiation and radio-isotope applications in health care, including nuclear medicine and radio-therapy for cancer diagnosis and treatment, using advanced radiation equipment.

In Viet Nam, only a 500-kW research reactor located at Dalat Nuclear Research Institute has been being in safe operation for 40 years since 1984. During covid-19 pandemic, the reactor produced each year an average amount of 1200 Ci of essential radiopharmaceuticals to meet the domestic demand. Currently, Viet Nam is undertaking a significant project on the construction of a Research Center for Nuclear Science and Technology. This center will be allocated with a 10 MW research reactor. The project is expected to accomplish in 2030.

2. The expansion of the application of radiation technology also poses a higher responsibility for Viet Nam to ensure safety, security of radioactive sources and nuclear material when new risks emerged. In its response management, Viet Nam has been working closely with the IAEA within the framework of the Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan (INSSP), with the European Union and other developed countries in establishing and enhancing the national nuclear security architecture. As a result, Viet Nam has gradually developed the regulatory document system and strengthened its technical capacity in the field of nuclear security. Viet Nam acknowledges and appreciates the valuable assistance provided by the IAEA in establishing and improving effective and sustainable national nuclear security capability.

Dear Distinguished delegates,

3. As a Party to the CPPNM and its Amendment, Viet Nam recognizes the importance of continuing to promote the universalization and implementation by IAEA Member States. Viet Nam also emphasizes the commitment to the other relevant international legal instruments and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance documents. Such national efforts would encourage the international community to support the developing countries like Viet Nam, from which leverages international and regional cooperation to strengthen nuclear security through advisory services and capacity building activities. The International Nuclear Security Service (INSServ) Mission 2023 in Viet Nam has shown its commitment to further focus on areas such as the legislative and regulatory framework for nuclear security, the sustainability of the detection and response systems and measures related to material out of control (MORC). Through cooperation on installation of radiation detection system at major border gates (International Airports), implementation of security plans for major public events and participation in coordinate research program on emerging technologies for nuclear security detection, Vietnamese officials have accumulated the necessary knowledge and experience to fulfill our

national responsibility in nuclear security and also to assist other countries upon request.

4. To conclude this statement, the Vietnamese Delegation wishes to thank all IAEA employees for their dedication and effective operation; I sincerely thank the IAEA for your valuable cooperation and support to all Member States especially Viet Nam in safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. We reaffirm our full support for IAEA activities in strengthening and promoting the application of nuclear science and technology to a world of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention./.