

# CONFERENCE PLENARY ADDRESS BY YANG MULIA HAJI MUHSIN BIN HAJI AHMAD HEAD OF DELEGATION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM (MAXIMUM OF 7 MINUTES) AT THE 68<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC

ENERGY AGENCY

**VIENNA, 16 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2024** 



السك الزمرعلي كمرورهمة اللغ وبركاته

{MR} President,

Chairperson and Members of the Governing Body,

Director-General of the IAEA,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good {afternoon} to you all.

It is a great honour to address the 68th IAEA General Conference today. First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Ambassador Sam Wook Ham on your election as the newly appointed President of this prestigious conference.



I would also like to express our deep appreciation for the remarkable efforts of the Director General and the dedicated team at the IAEA. Your unwavering commitment to promoting nuclear safety, security, and safeguards globally is invaluable, and we commend your tireless effort. Brunei Darussalam is grateful for the assistance extended since our membership to the IAEA. The collaboration and guidance we have received have been instrumental in our journey. I wish to reaffirm Brunei Darussalam's full support and cooperation with the goals of the IAEA.

## {MR} President,

In recent years, the IAEA has worked closely with Brunei Darussalam in drafting our National nuclear law, the Radiation Protection Act, Chapter 228—leading to its gazettement in 2018. The IAEA continued to support in strengthening our legal framework to ensure its comprehensiveness in addressing nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and civil liability throughout this journey. This was further demonstrated through the IAEA's Office of Legal Affairs Expert Mission to Brunei Darussalam at the end of January this year with clear outcomes moving forward.



# {MR} President,

In July 2024, Brunei Darussalam officially applied to be a member of the IAEA regional group, that is, the Southeast Asia and the Pacific (SEAP) Group. We comment on the efforts made by the members under the Chairmanship of the Commonwealth of Australia to ensure our application is successful. This collaboration will enhance our efforts to address challenges and advance in nuclear safety and security.

In practice, Brunei Darussalam has implemented the IAEA Code of Conduct requirements and is progressing towards expressing political commitment to the Code. This demonstrates our dedication to uphold international standards and contribute to global nuclear safety. Furthermore, Brunei Darussalam acknowledges the significance of concluding the legal instruments under the IAEA's depository. We have formulated strategies to ensure our commitment to these instruments in a phased manner. Our efforts will begin with the Convention on the Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its amendment.



## {MR} President,

Brunei Darussalam has recently begun building capacity towards establishing an environmental radiation monitoring system. This system aims to continuously monitor radiation levels in our environment to ensure we remain safe and enable an effective emergency response.

As a member of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy or ASEANTOM, Brunei Darussalam remains active in the project "Establishing a Regional Warning Radiation Monitoring Network in ASEAN and Enhancing National Network." This is a commitment to pursue collaborative efforts with regional counterparts to strengthen nuclear emergency preparedness and response through environmental radiation monitoring in the ASEAN region.

We also commend the work of the Agency's Department of Technical Cooperation Programme, which has been instrumental in the establishment of Brunei Darussalam's first National Cancer Centre and in building the capacity of our regulatory workforce.



### {MR} President,

Brunei Darussalam has successfully completed two Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan (INSSP) workshops in recent years. We extend our gratitude to the IAEA for their invaluable guidance during these meetings, enabling us to formulate a concrete framework to essentially strengthen our national nuclear regime, allowing us to meet international standards and safeguard our nation effectively.

# {MR} President,

Brunei Darussalam has made significant progress since concluding the modified Small Quantity Protocol (mSQP) in 2021. We are committed to strengthening our safeguards capacity to ensure we meet our legal obligations. At the regional level, Brunei Darussalam is advancing towards membership in the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN).

This will enhance our regional engagement by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience, and information with safeguards practitioners in the region. We fully support the work of the Agency in performing safeguards verification and strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. These initiatives are crucial for enhancing peace and security on a global scale.



{MR} President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that this Conference will motivate all member states to strengthen their capacity to manage the peaceful use of nuclear technologies and ensure the world is a safe place to work and live.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the IAEA for their recognizable effort towards a successful conclusion of this Conference.

Thank you {MR} President.