



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



NATIONAL STATEMENT

Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology, and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme

**Plenary Meeting Hall, Vienna International Center
Vienna, Austria**

26-28 November 2024

Delivered by:

**Undersecretary (Vice Minister) Leah J. Buendia
Head of Delegation**

Co-Presidents,
Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

1. My delegation thanks the Co-Presidents and their teams for the preparations for this Conference. I also extend the same to Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and the Agency for their efforts during the past six years since the last Conference in promoting nuclear science, technology and applications.

2. The Philippines recognizes the transformative effect of atomic energy for sustainable development and commend the Agency for its continued delivery of assistance. We view this conference as an opportunity for IAEA Member States to reaffirm our commitment to realize the full benefits of nuclear applications, and their contribution toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is our belief that our work should translate to tangible, scalable, and sustainable results directly benefiting our stakeholders.

Presidents,

3. Technical Cooperation between the Philippines and the Agency has remained robust throughout the years. We thank the Agency for its continued support, most recently in the following endeavors:

- Last year, the Philippines launched its first subcritical research reactor, which was designed by a woman and developed and operated by Filipino researchers and engineers.
- The Philippines is in the process of establishing an independent nuclear regulatory authority through comprehensive legislation encompassing the various principles of nuclear safety, security and safeguards, along with the planned ratification of nuclear safety-related conventions to which the Philippines is a signatory.
- We have released our nuclear energy roadmap, with the aim to have commercially operational nuclear power plants by 2032.
- An industry partner has established and is now operating a 10 MeV commercial-scale electron beam and cold storage facility for food and pharmaceutical products—the first of its kind in the country.
- We are establishing the Nuclear Medicine Research and Innovation Center and Program, a public-private partnership aimed at making cancer diagnosis more accessible and affordable for our people.
- One of our private sector partners is looking into the manufacture of house construction materials made from recycled plastic obtained using nuclear techniques through the government funded NUTEC Plastics Initiative. The Philippines, through the Department of Science and Technology, is also implementing the Science, Technology and Innovation for Circular Economy (STI4CE) initiative that actively supports research and development projects for communities and industries to adopt sustainable plastic and packaging materials technologies. Through the STI4CE, the DOST has already supported 53 R&D initiatives to advance the circular economy concept aimed at managing plastic waste generation.
- We have successfully integrated nuclear science in several secondary and tertiary education programs.
- Last August, the Philippines hosted the first International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) where Fifty-five (55) secondary school students from

fourteen (14) countries competed in intensive examinations in nuclear science.

4. The Philippines has been an active proponent of nuclear science, technology and applications domestically and internationally in collaboration with the Agency and other Member States. During the ongoing review cycle of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in Vienna last year and in Geneva this year, the Philippines held a side event on “the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and their socioeconomic impact,” a review of how TC projects in the Asia-Pacific benefit countries at scale. We also spearheaded a Working Paper on “Upscaling the Non-Power Applications of Atomic Energy” co-sponsored by 28 like-minded States to state that non-power applications should receive adequate and proportional recognition and support from government and industry.

5. For this Conference, the Philippines invites Member States to attend two important side events: one at 8:00am tomorrow focusing on best practices in industrial adoption of non-power applications, and another on Wednesday at 1:15pm focusing on the NUTEC Plastics Initiative. The events are co-organized or supported by our partners from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, and the IAEA.

Presidents,

6. As announced by Director General Grossi in his remarks, the Philippines is honored to be the host of the first IAEA International Conference on the NUTEC Plastics Initiative in November 2025. Plastics pollution is a major global concern that necessitates global solutions at scale. Nuclear applications can provide one of them.

Thank you.
