



Statement of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

by

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Mr. President, Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning/afternoon.

It is an honour to address the 2025 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. On behalf of the Government and People of The Bahamas, I extend congratulations to you, Your Excellency Peter Burian on your election to the presidency of this General Conference. I also express the appreciation of The Bahamas to the IAEA Secretariat, under the leadership of Director General Rafael Grossi, for convening this vital gathering at a time when the world faces urgent, complex and interconnected challenges.

For our part, let me state from the outset that The Bahamas is firmly committed to the principles of non-proliferation, nuclear safety, and the peaceful uses of atomic energy. We recognize that these are not abstract ideals, but practical necessities for safeguarding public health, protecting our environment, fostering sustainable development, preserving global peace, and building resilience — especially in small island developing states.

In this regard, our more recent national initiatives reflects this commitment. I am, therefore, pleased to report that we are in the final stages of the review and approval process of our draft legislation for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety, as well as a Chemical Weapons Prohibition Bill.

These laws will provide the important legal and regulatory frameworks required to ensure that all nuclear or radiological materials within our territory are managed safely and securely.

We have also begun a coordinated inventory of nuclear and radioactive sources. This, too, is a challenging but necessary step toward comprehensive oversight and accountability.

These initiatives serve to reinforce the framework governing the import and export of radioactive materials, with the long-term objective of establishing systematic inspections and verification procedures at facilities that utilize or store such sources.

These measures are not simply regulatory in nature; they are expressions of our conviction that safety, transparency, and preparedness are essential in today's world.

Mr. President, Excellencies, The Bahamas holds dear the philosophy that when science, compassion and access converge, it has a real life impact, it gives birth to real hope and it gives rise to real lasting possibilities and solutions. In this regard, while The Bahamas does not currently plan to operate nuclear power reactors, we recognize the vast potential of nuclear science and technology in several domains:

Firstly, in Healthcare, diagnostic imaging, cancer treatment, and related medical technologies which often rely on isotopes and radiation-based techniques remain important tools which we will continue to make available, safely regulate, and keep accessible to all.

Secondly, in the area of agriculture and food security, innovations such as radiation techniques for preserving food, improving crop yields and detecting pests can continue to assist us in adapting to climate vulnerabilities.

Thirdly, with regard to environmental protection, monitoring environmental radioactivity, responding to radiological emergencies, and assessing climate change impact on coastal zones, are all important technical capabilities which we intend to further develop with the assistance of the IAEA.

In this context, I recognize and commend the untiring efforts of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Division in continuing to assist The Bahamas and the Caribbean in building capacity with the training of personnel in radiation safety, regulatory oversight, and emergency response.

I am also very pleased to advise that The Bahamas not only received expert technical assistance in completing our Country Programme Framework earlier this month, but also we intend to request an Impact Assessment Mission to assist us in better evaluating our national needs, in an effort to efficiently coordinate national planning and to facilitate enhanced stakeholder engagement. We are most grateful to the Agency for all of their invaluable support to date.

Mr. President, Excellencies, for Small Island Developing States like The Bahamas, climate change is not theoretical — it is a clear and present danger. Rising sea levels, an intensity of storms, coastal erosion, and changing patterns of marine health threaten our infrastructure, our economy, and our very way of life. In this regard, with the assistance of the Agency, we intend to employ nuclear and radiological tools that can assist us in better tracking environmental changes, in early warning systems, in disaster preparedness, and in building resilience in communities.

Here, I am reminded of the proverb and the wise declaration that “we not only inherit the earth from our ancestors, but also we borrow it from our children. [Therefore], the biggest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else other than ourselves, will save it”.

With regard, to the principles of non-proliferation and regional peace, The Bahamas strongly supports all international instruments that seek to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Adherence to safeguards, transparency, and cooperation between member states and with the IAEA are crucial in maintaining trust and stability.

Mr. President, Excellencies, multilateralism is not charity, but rather it is the highest form of enlightened self-interest. In a world as interdependent as ours, no nation, no people or ethnic group is truly secure until we all are secure. Therefore, international cooperation through multilateral institutions, like the IAEA, has proven and continues to prove to be the most effective

way to guarantee one's national interests by fostering security for all nations in an interconnected world.

In this regard, Iran's stockpiling of 60% enriched uranium continues to be most concerning. Russia's continued unprovoked aggression against the people of Ukraine remains troubling, and North Korea's expansive and ongoing efforts to develop a nuclear weapons programme cannot go unchecked.

Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates, The Bahamas believes that safe, secure, and peaceful uses of nuclear science are not merely tools for development, but also expressions of sober leadership and responsibility. As we confront global challenges—public health crises, climate change, environmental degradation—we must ensure that nuclear technologies are harnessed wisely, safely, and equitably.

Let us, therefore, work together to strengthen the framework that safeguards us, to invest in the capacities that uplift us, and to uphold the values that unite us. In doing so, we honour the IAEA's mission, and make our world safer, healthier, and more sustainable place for all.

Thank You and may Jehovah God guide and bless our deliberations!