

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Khampheng DOUANGTHONGLA,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR
to the International Atomic Energy Agency,
At the 69th Session of the IAEA General Conference
17 September 2025, Vienna, Austria

Mr. President,
Director General of IAEA,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, allow me to extend our warmest congratulations to you, Mr. President on your election as the President of the 69th Session of the IAEA General Conference. We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance, the current session will yield meaningful and successful outcomes. We also wish to congratulate the Republic of Maldives for being membership of IAEA.

The Lao PDR always attaches great importance to atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity for humanity. The Lao PDR highly commend the role played by the IAEA in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and ensuring global nuclear safety and security, as well as facilitating access to nuclear technologies in addressing global challenges.

In this context, we would like to express our support for the IAEA's initiatives in recent years such as Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) for strengthening global response to zoonotic diseases, Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) for combating plastic pollution, Atoms for Food for enhancing agricultural productivity, and Rays of Hope for expanding access to cancer care in low and middle-income countries. Lao PDR remains committed to actively cooperate with the Agency in implementation of these initiatives in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Lao PDR highly values the IAEA's collaboration to support the Lao PDR in applying nuclear science in advancing sustainable development. We are now implementing 11 active projects under the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, spanning key sectors such as education, health, agriculture, environment and industry. These projects reflect the strong partnership between the Agency and national counterparts, and contribute meaningfully to socio-economic development.

The Lao PDR is currently finalizing its Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period 2026–2033, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. This Country Programme Framework will serve as a strategic roadmap to guide technical cooperation between Lao PDR and the IAEA, ensuring that the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology are effectively directed toward supporting the country's national development goals.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR attaches great importance to nuclear safety and security as part of our broader efforts to promote the peaceful application of nuclear technology. Last year, the Lao PDR made significant progress in strengthening its national regulatory framework. We had joined other Member States in endorsing the IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and organized the second INSSP consultations in Vientiane. Additionally, we are actively updating our Radiation Safety Information Management System (RASIMS) and Nuclear Security Information Management System (NUSIMS) profiles to strengthen self-assessment mechanisms in both radiation safety and nuclear security. In a further demonstration of our commitment to global and regional nuclear security, the Government of Lao PDR has recently joined the IAEA's Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) in June 2025.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR reaffirms its commitment to the Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and Safeguards which are enshrined in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), along with its Amendment, and the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free

Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty. Lao PDR actively supports the efforts of the ASEAN's implementation of the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Plan of Action and ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM). In 2024, Lao PDR hosted the 11th meeting of ASEANTOM.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Lao PDR remains convinced that the peaceful application of nuclear energy is a vital tool for development of humanity. We look forward to continued working with the IAEA and member states to advance nuclear science and technology for sustainable development, peace and prosperity.

Thank you.