



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT

69th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference

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

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To be delivered by:

**Ms. Maridon O. Sahagun
Head of Delegation /
Undersecretary (Vice Minister) of Scientific and Technical Services
Department of Science and Technology**

Mr. President,
Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi,
Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

1. On behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, I would like to extend our congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your election to preside over the 69th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference. We are confident that, under your capable leadership, this Conference will continue to tangibly advance the shared principles and aspirations that have long guided the Agency's work. I would also like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for all their preparations for this year's General Conference.
2. The Philippines recognizes the transformative power of science, technology, and innovation in solving the world's most pressing problems. This focus on practical impact reflects the broader stance of the Philippine Government, which has long emphasized that research must be translated into commercial applications and enterprise development. As our President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has underlined, "science, technology and innovation are the bedrock of sustainable development." Guided by this conviction, we are determined to ensure that technology derived from nuclear applications are not confined to laboratories but are deployed and scaled up to enhance food security, preserve human and animal health, protect ecosystems, and strengthen our industries.

3. Anchored on our Country Programme Framework, we have made tangible progress in harnessing nuclear science to address some of our most urgent challenges. This year, the Philippine government has expanded our work on radiological emergency preparedness, food irradiation, and environmental protection. Initiatives like the enhanced electron beam facility and public outreach campaigns on food safety underscore our commitment to making nuclear technologies part of everyday solutions—not abstract ideals. This year, we are pleased to start discussions on a country assessment mission under the Atoms for Food programme, with the aim to identify food security needs and develop a comprehensive plan to leverage nuclear techniques in enhancing food security.

Mr. President,

4. The long-standing position of the Philippines is that the peaceful uses of atomic energy are not ancillary to disarmament and non-proliferation—they are foundational pillars of peace, health, and prosperity. We recognize in this vein the inextricable link between the Agency's work and the various pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). At the 2025 NPT Preparatory Committee, the Philippines together with States Parties from all five UN geographic regions submitted a working paper on "Upscaling Non-Power Applications of Atomic Energy," affirming that technologies derived from non-power applications should be utilized at scale to achieve their intended multiplier effect. This advocacy is grounded in the belief that nuclear applications can lead to sustainable development through industry partnership. We are pleased to be the consensus nominee of the Far East Group for the Board of Governors for the term 2025 to 2027. We aim to advance these initiatives at this key policy-making body of the Agency and we request for your support to make this happen.

5. It is in this same spirit that the Philippines will host the first IAEA International High-Level Forum on NUTEC Plastics this November in Manila. Through the Forum, we aim to advance our shared ambition: to combat plastic pollution using nuclear techniques, support circular economies, and foster partnerships across science, policy, and industry. We enjoin all Member States to help us link the NUTEC Plastics Initiative with industry partners, financial organizations and regional and global platforms to combat plastic waste. This forum will feature the first house built with materials from upcycled plastic waste derived from nuclear technology—an output of collaboration between our government, the Agency and the private sector.

Mr. President,

6. The Philippines continues to progress in its nuclear energy programme, having a successful Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) follow-up mission, but especially in the approval of our new nuclear law creating the independent nuclear regulatory body following IAEA guidelines and assistance. Nuclear power in the Philippines will be operated by private companies, and in this vein, we launched our nuclear energy roadmap last year, complemented by the Philippines' first International Nuclear Supply Chain Forum in Manila which will be followed by another forum later this year. Throughout all of these endeavors, we thank the Agency for its continued assistance.

Finally Mr. President,

7. As the Philippines assumes the Chairmanship of ASEAN next year, we reaffirm our commitment to work with all partners—within our region and beyond—in advancing the Agency's mission and our shared vision of a healthier, more peaceful, and more prosperous world.

Thank you, Mr. President.