

Statement by the Leader of Myanmar Delegation H.E. U Tin Win  
to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference

Vienna, 14 – 18 September 2009

Madam President,

At the outset, I wish, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, to extend to you our warm and sincere congratulations on your election to preside over the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are fully convinced that with your able leadership and rich experience, and the cooperation of the distinguished delegates of the member states, the Conference will come to a complete success.

We would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei for his dedicated efforts, professionalism and years of efficient leadership in the IAEA. We wish Dr. ElBaradei a happy and successful time in the next phase of his life. We would like to extend our warm congratulations to Ambassador Yukiya Amano on his election as the new Director General of the IAEA.

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Rwanda as new members of the IAEA.

Madam President,

We wish to express our appreciation to the Director General, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei for his preparation of the Annual Report. The Annual Report for 2008 offers a comprehensive review of the Agency activities during the past year. It has summarized the Agency's continued efforts in areas of nuclear power technology and nuclear energy development, nuclear applications, safety and security of nuclear and radiological materials and facilities, technical cooperation program and verification of compliance with nuclear non-proliferation undertakings.

Madam President,

The Agency has made valuable contributions to socio-economic development of the world by helping its Member States in the utilization of nuclear science and technology in various fields of both power and non-power applications. Nuclear technology and radioisotope techniques have been applied in electricity production, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases, cancer therapy and control, food security and safety, improvement of crop productivity, improving livestock productivity and health, sustainable land and water management, insect pest control, environmental protection and industrial use of radioisotopes and radiation.

The activities and support of the FAO/IAEA Joint Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture have brought great benefits to the developing countries by using nuclear and isotopic techniques to increase crop yields, to produce more disease-resistant crops, and to control infectious animal diseases. The IAEA's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and the WHO-IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control have contributed to the life-saving of cancer patients in the developing world by radiation treatment. These programmes and activities should be continued by the Agency in the years to come.

Myanmar believes that the Technical Cooperation Program of the Agency is of great importance in the transfer of nuclear science and technology to the Member States and in promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy for sustainable socio-economic development around the world. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for the role the Agency has been playing in promoting nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under the three pillars of its mandate.

Madam President,

Currently, Myanmar is carrying out ten Technical Cooperation projects, of which two are new for the cycle 2009-2011 and eight are extended from the previous cycle. Besides, Myanmar has also participated in the regional and interregional projects, and involved in the RCA activities.

The largest shares of the IAEA assistance received by Myanmar under the TC Programme since 2000 are in the fields of radiation medicine and health (24%),

food and agriculture (21.7%), radiation safety and security (16.5%), general atomic energy development (13%) and nuclear engineering and technology (10.4%). During the last year, the IAEA provided Myanmar significant assistance in crop improvement through radiation induced mutation, the use of sterile insect technique against diamond back moth and the capacity enhancement of nuclear instrument laboratory in the Department of Atomic Energy. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Agency for the technical cooperation assistance in terms of training, expertise and equipment, through the IAEA TC projects. It is my sincere hope that the technical cooperation between the IAEA and Myanmar will be sustained and strengthened as much as possible.

Madam President,

The Government of Myanmar would like to acknowledge the Agency's efforts in strengthening the international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport and waste safety. The Agency's efforts and activities in supporting the Member States in strengthening worldwide nuclear and radiological safety by means of international safety instruments, development and preparation of safety standards and safety guides, setting up of nuclear safety knowledge networks and capacity building work in various areas of radiation safety have contributed to the development and improvement of national nuclear safety infrastructure in the Member States.

Madam President,

Myanmar is making efforts to develop and strengthen the national infrastructure related to the promotion and applications of nuclear science and technology for peaceful developmental purposes. Our national program focuses on education and human resource development for nuclear technology utilization, human health, food security and safety, agriculture and livestock breeding, water resource management and sustainable energy development. We would like the Agency to support us and provide assistance in capacity building, human resource development and nuclear knowledge management by means of its Technical Cooperation Programme.

Madam President,

Strengthening the protection of nuclear and other radioactive materials, which are in use, storage or transport, detecting and responding to malicious acts and collecting and sharing relevant information among Member States are essential for the prevention of nuclear terrorism and establishment of effective global nuclear security regime. We would like to reiterate our support to the Agency's efforts in improving worldwide nuclear security, upgrading the physical protection of nuclear facilities, quality control of nuclear security equipment, promoting nuclear security education, and facilitating and implementing the international nuclear security instruments in the Member States.

Madam President,

Myanmar is a supporter of global nuclear weapon non-proliferation and a nuclear weapon-free world. For the world to be peaceful and secure, it is important that states do not misuse their peaceful nuclear programs for nuclear weapon purposes. We highly appreciate the Agency's role and efforts for nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, which are essential in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. The verification programme of the Agency will continue to play a vital role in providing assurances to the international community that all the nuclear materials and facilities remain in peaceful activities.

Myanmar has been a party to the Treaty of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) since December 1992. Myanmar and the IAEA signed the Safeguards Agreement and the Small Quantities Protocol pursuant to the NPT in April 1995. It signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in November 1996. Myanmar also signed the Treaty on South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) at the fifth ASEAN formal Summit held in Bangkok in December 1995. The SEANWFZ Treaty came into force in 1997. We believe that nuclear weapon free zones are effective measures for nuclear weapon non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Madam President,

Myanmar currently has no major nuclear facility, and a nuclear research facility is needed for the promotion of nuclear technology utilization for

socio-economic development. A nuclear research reactor with experimental facilities will be an indispensable tool for education and training, research and other peaceful applications in nuclear science and technology.

The Cooperation Agreement between the governments of the Russian Federation and the Union of Myanmar to construct a Nuclear Research Centre in Myanmar was signed in 2007. Myanmar already informed the International Atomic Energy Agency concerning the Cooperation Agreement. The Nuclear Research Centre planned for construction will include a pool-type research reactor, and facilities for radioisotope production, neutron activation analysis and silicon doping. It was agreed that the nuclear materials, equipment and installation received as the result of the cooperation shall be kept under IAEA safeguards during the entire period of existence or application in Myanmar. The implementation of establishment of the Nuclear Research Centre has not been started yet.

Regarding the application of safeguards under safeguards agreement pursuant to the NPT and the Small Quantities Protocol between Myanmar and the Agency, the Seminar and Bilateral Consultation Meeting was held in Yangon in November 2008. A team of IAEA experts from the Department of Safeguards and officials from the relevant Ministries of the Union of Myanmar participated in the seminar and discussed in the meeting on the IAEA safeguards system, and application of safeguards to the nuclear materials and facility under amended SQP and Additional Protocol.

Madam President,

In conclusion, on behalf of the Myanmar Government, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Director General for his distinguished leadership and professionalism, and to the Agency and its entire Secretariat for their dedicated efforts and excellent contributions in the promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy. We re-affirm our full support to the activities of the Agency in the promotion and enhancement of the applications of nuclear science and technology in a safe, secure and peaceful way.

Thank you, Madam President.