STATEMENT
To be delivered by Amb. Maria Teresa T. Almojuela
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Mission to the UN and Other International Organisations in Geneva

Cluster 3 Issues
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The Philippines aligns itself with the NAM statement delivered by ____ and wishes to deliver the following remarks in our national capacity.

This year, the Philippines celebrates the 60th year of its membership in the IAEA and 60 years of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the realization of the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to research, production, and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The opening salvo for this celebration was the visit of IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano to Manila. The diversity of stakeholders met by DG Amano reflects the importance attached by the Philippines to the future of nuclear science and technology in the country.

Last year, at the sidelines of the first IAEA International Conference on Technical Cooperation, the Philippines signed its Country Programme Framework (CPF) which identifies six priority areas where nuclear technology transfer and resources will be directed to support our development goals.

On nuclear energy, the IAEA provided technical assistance to the recently-established Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organization (NEPIO), which is refining the national position on nuclear power. We look forward to further cooperation with the IAEA, as well as other Member States, in this regard.

On food and agriculture, scientists at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) have developed, and continue to test and evaluate, a radiation-processed
carrageenan plant growth promoter that has significantly increased rice productivity.

We are enabling the private sector to install irradiation facilities that will expand shelf life, promote agricultural exports, and increase real incomes of our farmers.

On natural resources and environment, we have utilized nuclear and isotope analytical techniques for the management of groundwater resources as well as for air and water pollution studies. We also established more real-time environmental radiation monitoring stations.

In the coming years, we will explore the application of such techniques to mitigate the impact of flood and natural calamities in regions which have historically suffered from flooding.

On industry, with the upgrade of our Cobalt-60 multipurpose irradiation facility, we have seen a 21% increase in clients availing of gamma irradiation facilities and increased acceptance of radiation technology which could result in the establishment of commercial facilities in the future.

On human health and medicine, we have improved methods for Sterile Insect Technique against the dengue mosquito (Aedes aegypti) to complement other methods for the effective control of dengue and chikungunya.

The Philippines looks forward to the first ever IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology in November and expects concrete outcomes from this Conference.

We anticipate that the Conference will affirm the central role of the IAEA in enhancing nuclear applications in Member States, the importance of regional collaboration, and the need to strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme, including through sufficient, assured, and predictable resources.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines recognizes that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with individual states and the central role of the IAEA in coordinating international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety globally.

In coordination with the IAEA, we are improving our national nuclear legal and regulatory framework. Last year, relevant committees at the House of Representatives approved the draft Comprehensive Nuclear Law, which will create an independent regulatory body for all activities and facilities involving sources of ionizing radiation, and establish a civil nuclear liability regime.
Mr. Chair,

The Philippines recognizes the critical importance of nuclear security and considers it as an "enabler" rather than a constraint in the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In this context, we reiterate our commitment to the principles laid out in the Joint Communique of the 4th Nuclear Security Summit and to the Ministerial Declaration in the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2016.

Last year, as Chair of the ASEAN, the Philippines hosted the 4th Meeting of ASEANTOM (ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy) with a Technical Session on Nuclear Security in Manila¹. The session discussed the current status of nuclear security in each ASEAN country, the role of the various networks, strengthening of partnerships with other countries, and future IAEA-supported projects on the security of radioactive sources throughout the ASEAN region.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines believes in a holistic approach in dealing with the nuclear security issue. Addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism and proliferation will also assist in creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the objectives of the NPT. Disarmament, non-proliferation, nuclear security and safety should, therefore, go hand-in-hand.

In closing, the Philippines acknowledges the indispensable role of the IAEA particularly under DG Amano in accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity throughout the world and the achievement of the SDG agenda. The Philippines reiterates its commitment to support measures to ensure the protection of the inalienable rights of all States parties to the Treaty to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy without discrimination.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.