



**Ambassador and Resident Representative of Malaysia
to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
at the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee
on Safeguards and Verification
Within the Framework of the IAEA Statute
Vienna, Austria: 11 November 2005**

Madam Chairman,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Vienna Chapter of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and at the very outset, I wish to express our appreciation to the Chairman of the Board of Governors for conducting consultations prior to the convening of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the Framework of the IAEA Statute.

2. In this regard, I wish to convey, on behalf of NAM, our heartiest congratulations to the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Algeria, Her Excellency Madame Taous Feroukhi on her appointment as Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. We express full confidence in the ability of H.E. Ambassador Feroukhi in carrying out her duties with full professionalism and integrity. Her experience as the Chairperson of the Group of 77 & China in 2004 and subsequently, of the current session of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, will be added assets in leading and guiding the work of this Advisory Committee.

3. NAM would also like to take this opportunity in conveying our appreciation to the IAEA Secretariat for the presentation made this morning.

Madam Chairman,

4. NAM reiterates its support for all efforts to enhance the work of the IAEA in all its aspects, within the statutory responsibility of the Agency and its legal authority, and bearing in mind the basic and inalienable right of all Member States to perform any operation or service useful in research on, or development or practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

5. NAM also reiterates its principled position that the efforts aiming at non-proliferation including safeguards and verification should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. In this regard, NAM reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority.

6. NAM stresses the necessity of efforts towards strengthening all statutory activities of the Agency in a balanced manner viz. technical cooperation, verification and safety. The Advisory Committee should not be designed to divert resources away from promotional activities and

thereby impair the balance between nuclear verification and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Madam Chairman,

7. NAM is also of the view that the work of the Advisory Committee should focus on considering ways and means to strengthen the safeguards system and to report thereon, with recommendations where appropriate, to the Board of Governors. In this connection, any recommendations of this Advisory Committee shall be designed in conformity with the statutory responsibilities of the Agency. Recommendations should also avoid hampering the economic or technological development of the Member States or international co-operation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, including the international exchange of nuclear material and equipment for the processing, use or production of nuclear material for peaceful purposes.

8. In this regard, NAM reiterates the importance of the promotion and strengthening of the multilateral process and expresses rejection of unilateralism.

9. NAM encourages the Advisory Committee to take into account all NAM's views and concerns including those expressed during the March and June Board Meetings of 2005, and those provided at informal consultations including in setting and charting its future agenda or work.

Madam Chairman,

10. NAM is of the opinion that in fulfilling its mandate, the Advisory Committee should neither duplicate the responsibilities of the IAEA Director General nor duplicate the work of the Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation (SAGSI). The Advisory Committee should focus on strengthening, where appropriate, elements of the IAEA safeguards system, in particular those implemented in connection to the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), within existing legal obligations.

11. With specific reference to the 2005 IAEA 49th General Conference resolution, GC(49)/RES 13, NAM reiterates the great importance it attaches to the open-ended character of the Advisory Committee and for it to take any decisions or make any recommendations by consensus within the Agency's statutory responsibilities. NAM takes note of the decision of the Board of Governors that the Advisory Committee will have an initial two-year mandate, which will be reviewed for extension after two years.

12. NAM wishes to stress that the Advisory Committee should, before making any recommendations to the Board of Governors, first assess the full implementation of relevant and pertinent decisions of previous General Conferences and Boards of Governors relating to the strengthening of the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards and verification system.

13. NAM is confident that the Secretariat has the requisite expertise to support and facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee by preparing substantive documentation in all United Nations languages to be distributed in a timely manner. The Advisory Committee should take advantage of this expertise regarding safeguards and verification improvement.

14. Turning to the schedule of future meetings, NAM is of the view that in order to allow all Member States and other States to fully participate in the work of the Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee is requested not to overlap its meetings with other scheduled UN-related meetings in Vienna. NAM takes note of the decision of the Board that the Advisory Committee

will consider and make recommendations to the Board of Governors on any Advisory Committee funding issues and in this regard, NAM looks forward to receiving the relevant information from the Secretariat in relation to the funding requirements.

15. NAM looks forward to the wide consultations to be conducted by the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee to reach agreement on all pending issues including the detailed mandate, agenda, subjects and timing of future meetings. NAM is of the view that more time is needed to examine some of the concrete proposals or subjects to be considered in future meetings.

Thank you Madam Chairman.