



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMB. HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE 66th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 86: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, NEW YORK, 2 NOVEMBER 2011

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I join others in thanking Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for his presentation to the General Assembly of the annual report of the Agency for 2010. Malaysia is also pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution (A/66/L.6). My delegation also wishes to welcome the Dominican Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Tonga as new Member States of the Agency.

Mr. President,

2. The Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons entitles States Parties to have access to nuclear technology. This Treaty also provides for exchange of nuclear knowledge and scientific information as well as to foster cooperation amongst States to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this connection, Malaysia highly appreciates the IAEA's role in assisting States in planning for and use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. The promotion of peaceful applications of nuclear energy constitutes a fundamental activity of the IAEA, as highlighted in INFCIRC/267. In this regard, my delegation is of the view that the IAEA needs to be equipped with sufficient, assured and predictable resources to enable the Agency to implement its mandated activities, and for States pursuing peaceful uses of nuclear energy to benefit from the transfer of nuclear technology.

3. As outlined in the Agency's annual report for 2010, there are more than 60 countries that have expressed an interest in exploring the use of nuclear power. These countries include my own country, Malaysia. As part of Malaysia's Economic Transformation Programme, nuclear power development has been identified as one of the main projects for future power generation. The objective is purely to ensure adequate electricity supply for the people of Malaysia beyond the year 2020.

4. An in-depth study on this nuclear power project is currently being undertaken by the Government of Malaysia before a final decision is made on this matter. Our focus is on the development of a comprehensive nuclear programme, including its legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as assessment of public opinion and a public relations plan. The studies would be conducted by independent consultants, taking into consideration lessons learned from other major nuclear incidences in the past, as well as the results of "stress tests" on nuclear power plants by Member States. The overarching objective is to ensure that the highest standards of nuclear safety are observed at all times, contributing towards strengthening global nuclear safety.

5. With regard to the development of a more comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework, my delegation is appreciative of the IAEA's inputs towards our draft comprehensive nuclear law, which

aims to further strengthen existing legislation. In addition, Malaysia has also enacted a Strategic Trade Act, encompassing export control measures for all single and dual-use strategic goods, including nuclear, chemical, biological, and missile-related items, as well as conventional arms.

Mr. President,

6. At the regional level, Malaysia has always recognised the importance of regional cooperation and has participated actively in many regional projects under the aegis of the Agency. Malaysia welcomes the efforts by the Agency to create a common framework for Nuclear Waste and Spent Fuel Management for ASEAN countries via the “Consultancy Meeting on Recommendations in Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management for ASEAN” last March, and other efforts in the field of nuclear security and nuclear safety.

Mr. President,

7. Notwithstanding the increasing renewed interest in nuclear power generation, Malaysia still accords high priority in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for enhanced food and water security, human health, natural resources and environmental management, industrial development, and medical applications. These are supported by further developments in national capabilities in peaceful nuclear technology research and development, commercialization, development of a more comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework, technological infrastructure, human capital development, competency verification, public information, compliance with the international system of nuclear governance, and engagement in international cooperation.

8. In this regard, my delegation wishes to thank the IAEA, particularly its Technical Cooperation Department, for its continuing support for the implementation of IAEA technical cooperation projects and various other activities in Malaysia, including the trust afforded to Malaysia in continuing to host the IAEA Postgraduate Educational Course in Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources. My delegation also wishes to express our gratitude to other member States that have shown interest in the course, which has attracted candidates from not only within our region but beyond.

9. In addition, Malaysia is also pleased and appreciative of the fact that the Malaysian Nuclear Agency has been re-designated, for the period 2010–2014, as the IAEA Collaborating Centre for Radiation Processing of Natural Polymer and Nano-materials, which has demonstrated, among others, the radiation aided production of non-toxic, environment friendly palm oil acrylates for printing applications.

Mr. President,

10. Regarding the assurances of supply of nuclear fuel, my delegation welcomes continued discussions on the development of multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel-cycle under the auspices of the IAEA. Malaysia reiterates that any further consideration of the issue of “Assurance of Supply” must be based on a coherent and comprehensive conceptual framework that adequately addresses the

views and concerns of all Member States. Malaysia remains convinced that further consideration of individual proposals on this matter must be preceded by consensual agreement by the General Conference on the conceptual framework that outlines the specific political, technical, economic and legal parameters. My delegation takes note of the continuous efforts by the Agency to establish and improve the concept of LEU bank facility. Notwithstanding that, we wish to underline that such arrangement has to conform with the inalienable rights of States Parties to the NPT to nuclear technology.

Mr. President,

11. With regard to international effort to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction that has been agreed to by States Parties to the NPT during the NPT Review Conference in 2010, my delegation welcomes the appointment of Mr. Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, as facilitator and the designation of Finland as the host Government for the 2012 Conference, which could provide the impetus to the creation of such zone in the Middle East. We also support the efforts by the Director General to convene a forum in Vienna later this month to further support this process.

12. Finally, Mr. President, Malaysia would like to express once again its appreciation to the Director General of the IAEA, as well as to the IAEA secretariat for their significant and valuable work in fulfilling the Agency's mandate.

Thank you.