



# PHILIPPINES

## STATEMENT

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Department of Foreign Affairs

Cluster 3 issues

**Third Session of the Preparatory Committee of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

5 May 2014

United Nations Headquarters

## PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION

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### **Third Session of the Preparatory Committee of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

United Nations Headquarters  
28 April to 09 May 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Philippines aligns itself with the intervention made by the Non-Aligned Movement.

Over the years, the Philippines, through active cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has been able to harness the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

Through technical cooperation projects and human resource development activities, the Philippines and the Agency have worked together in applying nuclear science and technology to enhance my country's capabilities in a variety of fields, including agriculture, industry, medicine and waste management.

The Philippines anchors the attainment of its development agenda through the goals of inclusive growth, along with ecological responsibility for present and future generations. In implementing this agenda, we recognize the important role of science and technology in meeting our Millennium Development Goals.

Filipino scientists are developing smart-farming alternatives using isotope-based techniques that will ultimately update obsolete farming methods, avoid large wastage of resources notably fertilizer and water, and improve the production of rice and corn.

On nuclear medicine, again with technical assistance from the IAEA, we inaugurated the Technetium-99m generator production facility, the first in the country. This facility is expected to cut at least 50 percent of hospital procedures, making diagnostic tests more affordable, faster, and more accessible to a wider segment of the population.

The Philippines lauds the Agency for its valuable work in the Programme for Action for Cancer Therapy. We call on Member States and other funding institutions to donate generously to this Programme.

In the area of addressing marine and coastal pollution, the Philippines has been designated as a repository to coordinate and manage the regional Asia and

Pacific Marine Radioactivity Database, a live database useful in marine monitoring among the countries in the region.

As the IAEA Collaborating Center on Harmful Algal Bloom Studies, we have trained scientists from Cuba, El Salvador, and Oman on the receptor binding assay (RBA) which measures the toxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Mr. Chairman,

In the area of nuclear security, we have made improvements in our nuclear security infrastructure and technical capacities. The Philippines is moving towards establishing a more security-conscious culture for those stakeholders responsible for radioactive and nuclear material.

We are working to improve our emergency response and mitigation capacities by establishing planning and coordination mechanisms. We are also strengthening the nuclear security legal framework by taking steps towards enacting domestic legislation and pursuing the ratification of relevant international instruments.

The Philippines recalls the successful first IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security of July 2013. It allowed Member States to exchange views on emerging trends and consider objectives for international nuclear security efforts. We look forward to the elaboration of these objectives into concrete programs with the development of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan 2014-2017. 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. We wish to highlight the successful completion of the project on Conditioning of Spent High Activity Radioactive Sources (SHARS) under a trilateral cooperation agreement, which involved the Philippines, South Africa and the Agency. Spent Co-60 sources were retrieved from source heads of teletherapy machines and stored in secure stainless steel canisters ready for disposal in boreholes when available. We thank the IAEA and the donor countries of the Nuclear Security fund for supporting this project.

Mr. Chairman,

The growing global demand for energy has sustained the interest in nuclear power, which means safety and security considerations will also increase and should be commensurately addressed.

The Philippines supports the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. We take note of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan with full cooperation of the Member States especially in the safety assessment worldwide based on the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, in strengthening national regulatory bodies and operating organizations

on nuclear safety, and in enhancing transparency and more effective communication with shareholders.

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in regulatory control, the Philippines welcomes the establishment of the ASEAN Regulatory Network, ASEANTOM and offers its full support towards realizing its goals and objectives.

In the Philippines, the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan is being discussed by the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council to incorporate lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, and to operationalize the Plan at the community level.

One of the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident is the need for the Philippines to establish an on-line network of radioactivity monitoring stations around the country. Towards this end, we look forward to IAEA assistance for the establishment of the network of eight stations, which can be upgraded to 16 to cover every region of the country.

In closing, the Philippines expresses its continued support for the IAEA as it confronts challenges and issues complicated by political realities. We believe that we cannot allow our gains to be eroded or erased by our differences. We will continue to work with other States in the spirit of mutual respect, transparency and constructive dialogue.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.