

## STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

**Third International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS 2020)  
11 February 2020  
Vienna, Austria**

Mr. Co-Presidents:

His Excellency Bogdan Aurescu,  
Foreign Minister of Romania, and,

His Excellency Federico Alfaro Boyd,  
Vice Foreign Minister of Panama:

1. I congratulate you on your Co-Presidency, and assure you of the Philippine Delegation's full support to bringing this event to a successful conclusion. I congratulate His Excellency Rafael Mariano Grossi on his appointment as Director General of the IAEA.
2. We are having this Conference in the midst of challenging developments: the frustratingly slow progress in nuclear disarmament as we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the increasing frequency and worsening violence of conflicts; and the long tentacles of terror reaching farther to distant places like my country half the world away.
3. This Conference should not lose sight of the ultimate goal of nuclear security – **protecting the welfare of the people from existing, evolving, and emerging nuclear security threats.** Under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippines has taken measures to improve our national nuclear

security regime as we further strengthen our national security architecture.

- In 2017, national authorities implemented a control system on import, export, and transit of strategic goods. Further improvements have been in place to ensure that not a grain of illegal nuclear material could enter Philippine territory.
- A national action plan is now in place to prevent, prepare, and respond to any chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risks.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs has re-started the process for the long-overdue Philippine ratification of the *2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material* and the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism*. On the latter, the Philippines will partner with the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime* for a roundtable presentation on ICSANT next week.

4. As “every man is a piece of the Continent,” the Philippines has welcomed genuine support from reliable friends and partners.

5. Nuclear security measures **should never** hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy – an inalienable right of States, including those that need it the most – **the developing countries**. I therefore call upon Member States to ensure **this is always** the case.

6. Along this line, Member States should reaffirm the central role of the IAEA in facilitating international cooperation to support States in fulfilling their responsibilities for nuclear security which rest entirely within them.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

7. You have our full trust and confidence as you lead us in ensuring that this Conference yields constructive contributions to nuclear security by building upon what unites Member States and not squandering time on things that divide them.

8. Thank you, Mr. Co-Presidents.

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