

**Philippine Intervention**  
**Cluster 2 Issues (General)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

The Philippines recognizes the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and reaffirms the importance of strengthening the Agency's nuclear verification capabilities and establishing confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear activities. The conclusion of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol and providing the Agency with tools and resources to effectively implement a credible verification system will go a long way to reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation, thereby contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security.

A few years after the consensual adoption of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, 13 States Parties have yet to bring into force Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements despite the urgent call under Action 25. A Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, coupled with an Additional Protocol, comprise the verification standard that can provide assurance that an NPT State party is living up to its obligations under the Treaty.

The Philippines recognizes that the Additional Protocol is not a legal obligation under the NPT, but it is a crucial tool for the IAEA to enhance its verification capabilities so that the international community can be guaranteed of the peaceful nature of any country's nuclear program. To date, 139 States have concluded Additional Protocols and are in force for 119 States. We urge all States that have not done so to conclude and to bring into force Additional Protocols and to implement them provisionally pending entry into force.

The IAEA is the sole competent authority with the mandate of verifying and assuring compliance by NPT States parties with their safeguards obligations. As called for under Action 33, States parties must ensure that the IAEA continues to have all political, technical, and financial support to enable it to effectively carry out its responsibility to apply safeguards.

In the same vein, in order to maintain the credibility of the IAEA, the Agency's secretariat should strengthen its efforts to strictly apply its information security policies and regulations to uphold the principle of confidentiality in the handling of sensitive safeguards information.

In our desire to contribute to the non-proliferation effort, the Philippines is very much interested in joining the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and is undergoing a review of the obligations for membership. Once the internal procedures have been completed, the Philippines will formally notify the current chair of the Global Partnership of its intention to join. The Philippines is an active participant in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Proliferation Security Initiative, and the Nuclear Security Summit.

The Philippines recognizes the importance of preventing the spread of illicit nuclear materials through strategic trade controls, hence we are in the process of finalizing the "Strategic Trade Management Act," which will be submitted to our Congress this year.

In relation to strategic trade controls, the Philippines hopes that there will be enhanced cooperation in the Asia Pacific region on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Thank you.