**Special Agency: International Atomic Energy Agency 2017**

Delegation from the Philippines



***Introduction***

The Philippines has been a part of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since 1958, a year after IAEA was established to promote the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. The nation has been an extremely active member of the agency for almost 60 years across a broad range of IAEA activities1. Recently, the government hosted the IAEA and International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) Conference in the Asia-Pacific region as a part of the commitment to explore alternative energy resources to ensure security and stability2.

In 1958, the Philippines has started the nuclear program with the creation of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) under Republic Act No.2067. In 1987, PAEC became the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI). PNRI undertakes research and activities in the peaceful use of nuclear energy to institute regulations and protect the health and safety of radiation workers and the general public in the Philippines. It is the agency of the government that mandates to advance and regulate the safe application of nuclear technology in the country3. Through PNRI, the nation has been working to improve the quality of lives through the nuclear research and development, specialized nuclear services, nuclear technology transfer and effective implementation of nuclear safety practices and regulations4.

***Topic A: Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism***

The Philippines believes that in the world where nuclear weapons and nuclear power are widely developed and used, the threat of nuclear terrorism is dangerously significant. There are over 400 commercial nuclear reactors in 31 countries and 245 research reactors in 55 countries5. It is hard to guaranty that all of these reactors are protected from terrorism. Additionally, the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea approximately have 16,300 nuclear weapons in total6. Among these countries, Pakistan is easily exposed to terrorists. North Korea has a high chance of using their weapons, and India also does not allow the IAEA to inspect. If these countries experience conflicts with other powerful countries, there is no trust on their nuclear weapons usage. This can result in disaster, which may potentially lead to the possible World War 3 that will create unrecoverable destruction on the world. Both nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons can produce immediate and delayed destructive effects on the environment and people's health. The exposure to radioactive materials can cause radiation sickness and potentially leads to death. High doses of exposure may also damage brain cells and affect blood infection7.

Nuclear terrorism has evolved as the world started to develop nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. Since nuclear technology and the developing countries' demands on nuclear energy are growing, the risks for nuclear terrorism will continue and become more crucial. Such developing country might not be able to protect their power plant from terrorist groups. When the IAEA decides to support these countries with nuclear energy, it is highly important that they secure safeguards before the countries are allowed to generate their system. Moreover, several countries that are not under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) might continuously develop nuclear weapons without any regulations. The IAEA should control all these countries with their nuclear weapons under the NPT and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Instead of making it voluntary for the country, IAEA should work together to make it necessary for all countries to join both treaties. If such countries reject to join the treaties voluntarily, the IAEA and the UN Security Councils should force the countries to increase transparency with sanctions. However, it is also important to ensure transparency from developed countries, especially the United States. The develop countries that already have nuclear weapons should also decrease stockpile and eliminate nuclear weapons. The IAEA should also overtake the control of nuclear materials and develop strict rules to prevent more countries from developing nuclear weapons. Overall decrease and prevention of nuclear weapon will reduce the risks of nuclear terrorism.

Furthermore, the militant groups should be strictly punished. They are committing significant crimes and putting people's lives in danger. The world should eliminate them with punishment, possibly through death. Each country would also need to secure stronger safety with their nuclear power plant and weapons delivery. Additionally, the IAEA should fund possible initiatives in the future by charging the countries that have nuclear weapons and nuclear energy plant. They are the countries that are causing the issues and bring risks of nuclear terrorism. Overall, these actions will allow the IAEA and countries in the agency to ensure safety for all global citizens and prevent nuclear terrorism.

***Topic B: Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy***

The Philippines has been interested in nuclear power due to the substantial reserves of hydro capacity, but a little amount of fossil fuels8. The nation has constructed a nuclear power plant; however, the nuclear power is not one of our energy sources. The government completed the construction of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) in 1974, but never fueled it after President Ferdinand Marcos ordered in responses to rising energy prices and safety in 1976. Currently, the nation believes that the Philippines does not need nuclear energy. It would cost $1 billion for 4 years to restore the BNPP and the 80% of the plant needs to be replaced9.

The nation does have higher demands for electricity up to 1,100 megawatts, and the government is seeking for other alternative sources to supply the nation's energy needs. It was predicted that the nation's need for electricity is increasing at an annual rate of approximately 5 percent. The future generation will need a better source of energy, and the country may have to operate a nuclear plant in the case of a serious power shortage10. However, the nation currently does not want nuclear energy in the country, because it would require extremely strong safeguards to prevent consequences. The Philippines does not disagree on nuclear energy, but the nation must discover safeguards to assure that there will be no disasters in case of nuclear explosion11. The government should be cautious about the risks of nuclear energy. The Philippines does have enough power supplies to survive and does not desperately need energy12. Nuclear technology can be a viable choice and offer so much potential; however, it is especially dangerous in an earthquake-prone country like the Philippines.

The Philippines takes climate change into consideration and search for other sources of energy other than fossil fuels. The nation does agree on environmentally friendly and cheaper energy production. The country has options to approach different energy production, including geothermal energy and solar energy. Additionally, as a country surrounded by water, ocean energy technology, such as ocean wave energy is another option for the energy production13. The Philippines agrees with NPT and believe that it is important to ensure the safety of nuclear technology. Although the nation currently does not want nuclear power, the government does support nuclear power and it is possible for the nation to invest in nuclear energy in the future.

***Topic C: Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program in Iran***

On July 14, 2014, the Iran agreed on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to use their nuclear program under peaceful purpose. After the deal's first decade, the Philippines believes that Iran will cooperate in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Through Iran's voluntary commitments, Iran will gain trust from other countries and the IAEA, which will improve Iran's bad reputation with the world. The nation agrees that the restriction on Iran's development of nuclear weapons and reduction of enriched uranium will prevent Iran from risking the world's safety14. The JCPOA does address concerns about possible military dimensions of Iran by preventing Iran from creating nuclear weapons.

The Philippines supports Iran's right to use peaceful nuclear energy under restrictions of the NPT. The nation believes that all countries should be able to access nuclear energy. Iran's reputation in the world had been quite negative; however, their agreement on the JCPOA demonstrates the first steps towards creating goodwill amongst the nations15. For Iran to further improve its reputation and create goodwill in the relationships with other nations, Iran needs to act upon the JCPOA and does not express aggression towards other countries. This will decrease the world's fear of Iran's threat to international peace and security. Although, such countries like Israel and Saudi Arabia are unhappy with the JCPOA, it is an effective agreement that fulfills both sides. To assuage such concerns, the IAEA should continue regular inspections with Iran's nuclear program, and sustain transparency on their process. Iran should reduce their desire for nuclear weapons for the world's safety and concentrate on their nuclear energy technology in the future.

The Philippines believes that currently, the IAEA access to sensitive sites timely enough. This would need to be extended and arranged based on Iran's future behaviour. However, the IAEA would need to consider the cost. Additionally, as a part of the JCPOA, the restrictions on conventional arms transfers and ballistic missile activities are significant. This ensures safety by eliminating the possibility for Iran to develop nuclear weapons. The Philippines supports Iran's right to access peaceful nuclear technology under the NPT. Therefore, the nation supports that the JCPOA should ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons for the world's safety.

Additionally, the implications of sanctions relief will allow Iran to improve their economy and relationships with other countries. This will open a new phase in Iran's relations and opportunities that had been imposed by the EU, the UN Security Council and the US. The lifting of the sanctions will allow Iran to regain their share of markets and strengthen their influence economically, politically and strategically16. More than $100 billion of Iranian assets that are frozen in foreign banks will allow Iran improve their economy and rejoin the world economy. The Iran's government would focus on domestic economic issues instead of nuclear weaponry, which will benefit both Iran and the world17. Therefore, the Philippines supports the JCPOA and Iran's nuclear program for peaceful purposes, and the IAEA should ensure that the countries do not violate the JCPOA.

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