

Cuba and the IAEA: Working Together For Peoples' Welfare

Founding member of the *International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA*, Cuba maintains excellent links with that agency that result in fruitful cooperation projects in key areas such as health, agriculture and the environment.

In 2012, Cuba and the international organization signed a *Comprehensive Plan of Support for Nuclear Security*, implemented the same year in the Cuban archipelago.

The UN agency has also carried out training courses in Cuba, which has allowed a fruitful exchange of experiences among regional specialists and experts of the IAEA, and contributed to the training of specialized personnel.

It also reiterated its intention to work in the search for alternatives to address the challenges facing Cuba due to the inhuman and unilateral U.S. blockade, such as the acquisition of equipment for its programs of peaceful use of nuclear energy.

As an active member of the IAEA and Board of Governors since 2011 and whose term expires this year, the Caribbean nation has collaborated on programs for the implementation of peaceful nuclear energy to raise the standard of living of many peoples, an assistance recognized by the international body.

The Cuban government has always expressed its willingness to continue putting its experts and facilities at the service of the region, with the aim to contribute as much as possible to encourage the use of that energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

From that world agency and as a full member of the *Board of Governors*, consisting of 35 countries, Cuba has consistently defended the inalienable right of all States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and promoted disarmament actions of such weapons to ensure peace and sustainable development.

Therefore, the visit to Havana by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr. Yukiya Amano, is to strengthen a relationship, described by both sides as an extremely fruitful cooperation based on solidarity and with the active participation of Cuba as a full member and founder of that United Nations agency.

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