

## **Speech of the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the plenary meeting of the IAEA General Conference**

Madam President!

Dear distinguished delegates!

### ***I (Evaluation of cooperation with the IAEA)***

Over the years since the foundation of the IAEA, the Agency has acquired the exclusive status of a leading international organization designed to promote the safe use of nuclear energy in peaceful activities and to ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of international nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

The Republic of Uzbekistan expresses its full support for the activities of the Agency. Since the establishment of cooperation with the IAEA, the 25th anniversary of which will be celebrated in 2019 in the Republic of Uzbekistan much work has been done to improve the radiation and nuclear safety of the country and the region. One should remind that the Treaty on a Nuclear weapon free zone in Central Asia proposed by Uzbekistan in early 1990s has been signed.

Cooperation with the IAEA in implementing projects in the framework of technical assistance is being actively implemented, particularly, projects which are aimed to:

- increase of radiation safety of cancer centers in Uzbekistan, purchase of high-tech scientific medical equipment and training of personnel in the field of radiation medicine;
- training in new methodology in laboratories of nuclear physics of the National University of Uzbekistan and Samarkand State University;
- modernization and strengthening of radiation and nuclear safety of the 10 MW research VVR-SM nuclear reactor of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- shipment of highly enriched spent nuclear fuel to the country of origin;
- decommission of the research nuclear reactor of JSC "FOTON", etc.

Uzbekistan considers technical cooperation within the framework of the IAEA as an essential tool for the transfer and implementation of advanced ideas, technologies and experience in the nuclear field. As for many other Member States of the Agency, technical cooperation for Uzbekistan is a significant help in a number of areas related to the possible spheres of use of nuclear knowledge and technology.

Uzbekistan highly appreciates the professionalism and competence with which the IAEA is approaching the implementation of the projects of the Technical Cooperation Program.

### ***II (What Uzbekistan has done in a year)***

Today, nuclear energy provides production of about 15 percent of the world's electricity. The role of environmentally safe and economically justified technologies is now growing to meet the needs of mankind in the production of electricity.

In this regard, the IAEA's assistance to countries interesting in development of national nuclear power programs is of specific importance in creating the fundamental foundations for the safe operation of nuclear power facilities. The IAEA activities in this area are of particular

importance due to the constant growth of the number of states intention to implement their own nuclear power development programs, including nuclear power plant construction projects on their territory.

Uzbekistan is among the states interested in a substantive dialogue within the Agency on all issues related to the launch its own national nuclear power program.

The government of Uzbekistan has considered various options for further development of the energy industry to ensure sustainable economic growth of the country. The main option is the creation of its own nuclear power plants.

When adopting such a decision, the Government of Uzbekistan took into account many factors and circumstances. Among them one should mention: the need to ensure energy security, reduce the amount of carbon emissions to the environment, increase confidence in the safe performance of nuclear power plants, the economic feasibility and competitiveness of nuclear power.

Taking into account these and other important circumstances, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in January 2018 came to a decision to build a nuclear power plant in our country. This year on September 7 in Moscow the Agreement on construction of such plant was signed between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In this regard, we hope that the Agency will help us with this program, because the active technical and expert assistance of the Agency to the states implementing nuclear power programs is of higher priority importance in creating the fundamental foundations for the safe operation of nuclear energy worldwide.

Uzbekistan is especially interested in international cooperation in the field of safe and reliable operation of nuclear facilities, handling radioactive sources, spent fuel and waste, development of nuclear medicine. In this regard, we note the importance of effective implementation of the most significant international legal instruments in this field, primarily the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention. Being a party to these Conventions, Uzbekistan is responsible for their implementation and intends to continue promoting efforts to universalize international legal documents.

Madam President!

Our state is a committed and consistent supporter of the processes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and strictly fulfills its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Agreement on the Application of Safeguards.

Uzbekistan understand great importance of strengthening the safeguards system under the auspices of the IAEA. Having signed the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement in 1998, our country reaffirmed its adherence to the principles of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and strengthening the authority of the Agency in this field.

We also recognize the role of international export control regimes. According to it, an effective national export control system has been established in Uzbekistan

In conclusion on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan we would like to acknowledge the Agency activities.

We also wish a fast relief to DG Dr.Amano!

Thank you.