



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohsen Naziri Asl
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Distinguished Co-presidents,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I am honored to address this important Ministerial Conference. I would like to extend my best wishes for your success, distinguished co-presidents. Please allow me to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, and we proudly commemorate this significant milestone. Over the past five decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made remarkable progress in the development of nuclear science, technology, and its applications across various sectors, including food and agriculture, healthcare, the environment, industry, nuclear power, and the nuclear fuel cycle. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to increasing the share of nuclear power in the country's energy portfolio to 20,000 megawatts by 2042, in accordance with its Comprehensive Strategic Document for the Development of the Nuclear Industry, which outlines a 20-year horizon.

These achievements have been the result of the dedicated efforts of our scientists, enabling Iran to harness the peaceful applications of nuclear energy to meet the growing needs and priorities across various sectors. Despite the persistent limitations and restrictions imposed,

which contravene Article IV of the NPT; we have remained steadfast in our pursuit of peaceful nuclear advancements.

Many developing countries' member states, now face significant challenges in utilizing nuclear energy across various areas, including climate change, health crises, food safety and security, and water resource management. To overcome these challenges, international cooperation plays a crucial role in facilitating the exchange of equipment, materials, and technologies to maximize the benefits of nuclear energy.

While we acknowledge the important role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) through its national, regional, and interregional technical cooperation projects in assisting its members to address their national needs, the development of peaceful nuclear technology continues to face numerous challenges in many developing countries. The politicization of this technology, which diverts it from its scientific and peaceful objectives, remains a significant challenge, jeopardizing the full implementation of Article IV, which is a fundamental pillar of the NPT regime.

Needless to say, nuclear science and technology now play a pivotal role in virtually every aspect of human life, making it difficult to imagine a world where this technology is not used to enhance the welfare and well-being of people. From medical imaging to cancer treatment, from agriculture to electricity generation, there is no other technology that can replace the invaluable contributions of nuclear technology.

Against this backdrop, it is a matter of serious concern that certain Nuclear Weapon States continue to undermine international efforts aimed at the peaceful use of nuclear energy, without discrimination. Their approach has compromised the commitments made by all parties under the Statute and other relevant international instruments, which include the pledge not to take measures that hamper peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is regrettable that these states

persist in denying the rights of Member States, including access to the latest scientific findings published in specialized journals and the dissemination of such knowledge.

The Technical Cooperation program is the primary vehicle through which the Agency transfers nuclear science, technology, equipment, materials, and expertise to its Member States. This enables them, including through capacity-building efforts, to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and national development. This program remains an essential tool for providing assistance and ensuring that all people around the world can benefit from nuclear energy, without discrimination, to improve their lives.

Today, more than ever, the NPT regime, in general, and the Agency's Technical Cooperation program, in particular, suffer from a discriminatory approach that hinders their full implementation. Arbitrary export control regimes, negotiated and concluded in exclusive processes outside of the United Nations framework along with unilateral actions, continue to deny the inalienable rights of Member States under the IAEA Statute and Article IV of the NPT.

Article IV of the NPT, as well as the Statute of the Agency, stipulates that the Member States must take all necessary measure to foster international cooperation aimed at facilitating the exchange of nuclear technology, equipment, materials, and expertise. These provisions encompass both promotional and regulatory aspects of actions by Member States. Accordingly, all Member States are committed to refraining from any actions that would hinder the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Furthermore, these commitments are reinforced by other relevant instruments, such as INFCIRC 267, which clearly states that 'the Agency shall not make assistance to its members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this Statute.

However, contrary to the commitments made under various international instruments, many IAEA Member States developing countries face significant obstacles in accessing nuclear technologies, equipment, and materials. Therefore, as stated in Article III of its Statute, the Agency is expected to provide 'materials, services, equipment, and facilities to meet the needs of' all its Member States.

Distinguished Delegates

In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran, with over 50 years of peaceful nuclear activities and a diverse technical and educational infrastructure, is ready to share its experience, with the support of the Agency, to advance the development of peaceful nuclear technology in our region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also invites the countries of our region to establish a nuclear technical and educational cooperation network. Through synergy and mutual cooperation, we can create the foundation for further development of nuclear technology in the countries of this region

Last but not least, global challenges require global solutions; no single nation can overcome the formidable threats that affect us all. We must act together. Our differences should not prevent us from taking joint actions based on our shared concerns. The international community, now more than ever, expects the UN and its specialized agencies to play their critical role in ensuring peace, security, and tranquility for all regions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its strong commitment to the principles of the peaceful use of nuclear technology and supports the strengthening of cooperation between Member States to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices in the nuclear and radiation field. We must use nuclear technology as an essential tool in our collective response to global challenges.

I would like to wish you, distinguished Co-Presidents, and all participants of this Ministerial Conference success.

I thank you.