

Pakistan's National Statement

Plenary Session of the Sixty-Ninth (69th) General Conference of the IAEA

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning/ Good afternoon,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate Excellency Ambassador Peter Burian and other officers of the Committee on their election at the 69th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would like to assure Pakistan's full support and cooperation with regards to your roles and responsibilities. On behalf of my country, I congratulate and welcome with best wishes the Republic of Maldives on joining the IAEA.

Mr. President,

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges, affecting ecosystems, economies, and human livelihoods. Consistent with global actions for clean energy and the mitigation of climate change, Pakistan, which is among the lowest carbon emitters, remains committed to supporting international efforts to reduce the risks linked to climate change.

At present, Pakistan has six nuclear power plants in operation, which collectively generate a capacity of 3,530 MW. During last one year, the total nuclear energy generation contributed to 18.3% of the overall energy mix, which translates to 34% of our low-carbon energy production. Further, one nuclear power plant, C-5, with a capacity of 1200 MW is currently under construction and is expected to be operational by 2030.

Thus far, Pakistan has avoided Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission of over 116 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. Each year, nuclear power plants in Pakistan are preventing approximately 15 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Our 108 reactor-year experience in operating safe, secure and fully safeguarded nuclear power programme speaks volume of our capabilities and commitment. Pakistan emphasizes the need for unrestricted collaboration and fair access to civil nuclear technologies, particularly for those nations that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Mr. President,

In the aforementioned context, Pakistan supports the construction of new nuclear power plants and development of small modular reactors worldwide with non-discriminatory and equitable access to nuclear technology, particularly catering for the needs of developing countries, while ensuring the highest levels of safety, security.

Mr. President,

The IAEA's efforts underscore the vital role of nuclear science in achieving sustainable development goals by addressing global challenges such as food safety and security, one health, climate change, water scarcity and energy security.

Given the potential impact of nuclear science and technology, the IAEA's role as a torch bearer in leading strategic initiatives i.e. Net4Zero, Rays of Hope, Atoms4 Food, ZODIAC, and NUTEC Plastics is highly valued and supported. Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend Pakistan's full support to these initiatives.

Mr. President,

In the human health sector, PAEC, with a network of 20 cancer hospitals across the country is providing affordable diagnostic and therapeutic services in Pakistan. Annually, over 1.0 million diagnostics and therapeutic procedures are carried out serving over 80% of the total cancer patients. In addition, more than 50 private and public sector nuclear medicine / radiotherapy facilities using advanced techniques like Cyberknife, Gamma Knife, Cyclotron, PET/CT, etc. provide services for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the country.

One of PAEC cancer hospitals, NORI, as an IAEA Anchor Center, has provided trainings for capacity building to a batch of international fellows from Yemen under the Rays of Hope initiative.

Our premier institute – Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH) is the main producer of radio-pharmaceuticals in the country. Using its research reactor PARR-I, the institute is supplying several radiopharmaceuticals including Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) and Lutetium-177 (Lu-177) to more than 50 national hospitals.

Distinguished Delegates,

In Pakistan, agriculture sector contributes over 20% to the GDP and is essential for national food security. Climate change poses a serious threat to Pakistan's

agriculture sector. Besides cultivating alluvial wastelands under Government of Pakistan's Green Pakistan Initiative, Pakistan is striving to produce new high yield varieties and adopting climate smart agricultural practices.

Using nuclear techniques, PAEC researchers at its four agriculture and biotechnology institutes have so far developed more than 150 high-yield, disease-resistant crop varieties and are educating local farmers on climate smart agricultural practices to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Excellency, Pakistan highly regards its cooperation with the Agency in the area of agriculture. The Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) as an IAEA collaborating center has been working to develop improved varieties of cotton, wheat, rice and chickpea. I am pleased to share that Pakistan has been selected as one of the early countries to benefit from the joint IAEA-FAO Atoms4Food initiative.

Pakistan also acknowledges the role of IAEA in making the world better prepared for future Zoonotic diseases under the ZODIAC initiative. The technical support of the Agency provided to national zoonotic laboratory at NIAB is highly appreciated. .

Mr. President,

Water security is an essential priority for Pakistan, and nuclear techniques are playing a critical role in managing water resources efficiently. Through isotope hydrology, Pakistan has improved groundwater mapping, enabling better resource allocation and sustainable usage.

In this sector, our institute PINSTECH, is formally designated as an IAEA Collaborating Center on water resource management. Further, Pakistan is actively participating in activities of the GloWAL network and looks forward to sharing its expertise with other member states in this field by providing our state-of-the-art laboratories and highly effective isotopic analytical facilities that comply with international standards.

Mr. President,

Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), another IAEA Collaborating Center, is playing a vital role in nuclear education. This institute has offered 20 fully funded international scholarships at all levels and fields including nuclear science and technology. In addition, I am pleased to announce five fully funded

scholarships for international female students at PIEAS as our continued support to IAEA's Marie Curie Fellowship Programme for the year 2025-26.

Mr. President,

Technical cooperation programme remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's collaboration with the IAEA. Our partnership with the TC Department has significantly strengthened technical capabilities and infrastructure of our institutions. Pakistan, under its practical arrangement with the Technical Cooperation (TC) Department, is sharing its technical expertise with fellow member states, fostering partnerships by offering specialized education and practical training across diverse fields of nuclear science and its applications. I firmly believe that our continued cooperation with the TC Department will further elevate this partnership in the years to come.

Mr. President,

Pakistan upholds the highest standards of nuclear safety which are in line with the IAEA standards and current world best practices. The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) stands as an independent national regulatory authority with the critical mandate to uphold nuclear and radiation safety as well as nuclear security across Pakistan. At the end of last year, PNRA, after successfully completing all regulatory requirement, has awarded the construction license to the fifth unit at Chashma site (C-5). The National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS) as an IAEA Collaborating Centre, focuses on education, training, and technical assistance in nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear security.

In October 2024, Pakistan conducted the first National Radiation Emergency Exercise (NREE-2024), where international experts, including those from the Agency also participated as an observer. In conjunction with National Exercise, Pakistan also hosted IAEA's ConvEx-2c. Pakistan has also enhanced its national assistance capabilities in seven out of eight functional areas in IAEA's Response and Assistance Network (RANET).

Pakistan also played an active role in ConvEX-3 (2025) through its level-B participation and provided international assistance in the areas of radiation survey and medical support.

Pakistan considers nuclear security to be of paramount importance and has a comprehensive nuclear security regime incorporating legislative, regulatory, and institutional framework. Pakistan Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Security (PCENS) –

under a practical arrangement with the IAEA plays a vital role in capacity building in the area of nuclear security at national and international levels.

Mr. President,

In accordance with our commitments, Pakistan will host the IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Services (IPPAS) mission during 2026. By inviting IAEA IPPAS mission, we intend showcasing the robustness of our national nuclear security framework and to benefit from the Agency's expert guidance in further strengthening our nuclear security regime.

Furthermore, Pakistan looks forward to host the IAEA NSSC meeting in year 2026. It is a matter of pride for us that Pakistan hosted the first ever NSSC Network meeting outside of IAEA HQ in 2016.

Mr. President,

Recognizing the crucial role of women in advancing nuclear research and applications, Pakistan strongly supports women participation through education, training, and leadership opportunities in the field.

Pakistan's commitment to the IAEA's initiative Women in Nuclear (WiN) highlights its dedication to capacity-building, innovation, and sustainable development, reinforcing the idea that gender inclusivity strengthens the nuclear industry. Pakistan strongly supports and contributes to Agency's relevant initiatives of Marie Curie and Lise Meitner programmes.

Mr. President,

Pakistan is firmly committed to Agency's mandate and stands ready to further strengthen our partnership with the IAEA and other member states in promoting sustainable development goals. Pakistan commends Agency's efforts to leverage nuclear science and technology for global well-being.

Embracing a collaborative approach, Pakistan shares its expertise to foster global peace, progress, and prosperity. We look forward to deepening our partnership with the IAEA and member states for the collective benefit of humanity.

I, Thank you Mr. President.
