

*Statement by Mr. Alexey Likhachev,  
head of the Russian delegation,  
Director General of the State Atomic  
Energy Corporation “Rosatom”*

*at the 69th session of the IAEA General Conference  
(Vienna, September 15, 2025)*

Dear Mr. Chairman! Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

This IAEA General Conference is taking place in a remarkable year for Russia. **We celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian nuclear industry.** This jubilee is a good occasion to look back, reflect upon our present-day achievements, as well as look into the future.

**President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin** in his congratulatory address mentioned that **the establishment of the nuclear industry in our country in 1945 was a major, truly monumental event.**

The Soviet scientists quite literally managed to look into the future. **We were not the first to invent and use a nuclear bomb.** However, we were the **first** to build the **world’s first of a kind industrial nuclear power plant** in 1954, and then to set afloat the **world’s first nuclear icebreaker** in 1957. **First tokamaks in the world** were built in our country in 1950s – 1960s, and in 1973 we commissioned the **world’s first power unit with the BN-350 fast neutron reactor.**

At the same time our country started promoting its nuclear technologies abroad and **generously shared the know-how with its partners.** Since the late 1950s **59 power units and 22 research reactors** of Soviet and Russian design were built almost in every part of the world.

Dear Mr. Chairman!

**The USSR was among the founders of the IAEA,** and it made a vast intellectual and technological contribution to the development of the Agency. Over the period of its existence the IAEA has been recognized as the leading **specialized international organization in the nuclear sphere.** **We have always been supporting**

**the IAEA, we are supporting it now, and we will keep supporting it.** Given the new challenges, this is especially relevant.

Russia keeps providing the Secretariat with **support in major fields of its activity**. We are funding large-scale projects under the Technical Cooperation Programme, Nuclear Security Fund, Russian Safeguards Support Programme, Rays of Hope initiative. We keep taking an active part in INPRO international project, which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

**Our cooperation with partner states is carried out in line with the IAEA requirements.** We believe that the role of the IAEA is objectively increasing as more and more countries launch their own national nuclear programmes and projects.

Dear Mr. Chairman!

**Nuclear industry is undergoing its renaissance.** The IAEA expects installed nuclear capacity to grow more than twofold by 2050.

The objective set by the President of the Russian Federation is to bring the share of nuclear power in Russia's energy mix from just under 20% today up to 25% by 2045. In accordance with the power generation masterplan, **we are instructed to build 38 nuclear power units of large, medium, and small capacity in Russia**. In other words, to double our fleet of reactors.

A lot has been accomplished so far, but a lot is yet to be done. In particular, **transition to serial construction of nuclear power plants and development of Generation IV nuclear power systems** with the closed fuel cycle.

Our special focus is on **small nuclear power plants**. We are ready to actively engage in working out applicable international norms and regulations under the IAEA aegis.

In Seversk (the Tomsk Region) we put a uranium-plutonium nitride fuel fabrication unit for BREST-OD-300 innovative fast reactor into pilot and industrial operation as part of our **Proryv (The Breakthrough) project**. This unit **has become the world's first operating module of a Gen IV nuclear facility**.

**We are building up a unique Russian fleet of icebreakers.** Last year the Chukotka icebreaker was launched, and we raised the flag at the Yakutia icebreaker. The first RITM400 reactor plant was manufactured for the Rossiya icebreaker, which

is being built in the Primor'ye Region. Before the end of this year the Stalingrad nuclear icebreaker construction will commence.

We keep fulfilling all our obligations under the international agreements. Despite the **unprecedented and unlawful sanctions' pressure** not a single construction project has stopped. NPP construction in 9 countries continues based on Russian technologies. We are actively building **24 large capacity power units as well as small modular reactors**.

Dear Mr. Chairman!

In recent years the entire system of international cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy faced **unprecedented challenges**. It is important that during these difficult times for the IAEA and non-proliferation regime, despite provocations, the **IAEA retains its status of professional and technology-based organization**.

It is with regret that we note that some IAEA Member States keep actively politicizing the issue of the Zaporozhskaya NPP within the Agency. I would emphasize: **safety and security of nuclear facilities are our utmost priority**. We are doing everything needed to ensure that both the ZNPP itself and its staff are safe and unharmed. We **closely cooperate with the IAEA**. Starting from September 2022 IAEA experts maintain permanent presence at the ZNPP, and these days the 30<sup>th</sup> team is working at the plant. We create conditions necessary for safe work and rotation of the IAEA staff.

I would like to emphasize that the only real threat to the ZNPP and its staff is posed by **reckless actions that are taken by the Kiev armed forces** that target the infrastructure of the ZNPP and its satellite city of Energodar on an almost daily basis.

Even more so, **geography of such provocations by the Kiev regime is expanding**. In August and September, the Smolensk NPP was attacked by drones of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Ukrainian UAVs are being destroyed a few kilometers away from the Kursk NPP.

Not only actions of Kiev threaten Russian nuclear energy facilities, but they endanger progress of the global nuclear industry.

Mr. Chairman, we are confident that the **issue of the Iranian nuclear programme can only be resolved diplomatically**. We welcome the agreements signed on September 9th between Tehran and the Agency on **resuming the implementation of the IAEA safeguards in Iran**. This is a great example of how even the most complex tasks can be resolved through dialogue. We are ready to assist in searching for negotiated solutions which will be based on the international law and Article IV of the NPT.

Dear Mr. Chairman!

Today a new infrastructure model based on the synergy of nuclear technologies, renewable energy sources, new construction materials, and digital capabilities is emerging right in front of us. In this model, nuclear energy as a clean, reliable and sustainable source of energy, will be very much sought after.

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian nuclear industry is a good opportunity to discuss mid-term and long-term approaches to high-technology development. The **World Atomic Week** that will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of September will be dedicated to this very topic. The slogan of the event is “From New Technological Paradigm to New Mindset”.

We are looking forward to welcoming representatives from all interested IAEA Member States in Moscow next week.