



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SRI LANKA
69TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

Item 7: General Debate and Annual Report 2024

Mr. President
Excellencies
Director General Rafael Grossi
Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of the delegation of Sri Lanka, I extend our warmest congratulations to you on your assumption of the presidency of the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Sri Lanka has long valued its close collaboration with the IAEA and recognizes the Agency's remarkable achievements in advancing the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. We express our appreciation to the Director General and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts in delivering impactful programmes to the Member States, particularly through innovative responses to global challenges.

As highlighted in the 2024 Annual Report, we commend the Agency's steadfast commitment to fulfilling its mandate, ensuring the peaceful

application of nuclear science and technology, strengthening nuclear safety and security, and upholding the integrity of nuclear safeguards and verification.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka is currently exploring the potential of nuclear power for electricity generation as a reliable, low-carbon, clean and green energy source to diversify its energy mix and address the dual challenges of climate change and energy security. In this regard, we are deeply grateful for the IAEA's continued support and technical guidance as we assess the feasibility of nuclear energy within our national framework. In fact, **nuclear power has been identified as an energy source within the base case of Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) Least Cost Long-Term Generation and Expansion Plan 2025–2044**, which was approved by the electricity regulator, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL).

Sri Lanka's energy policies focus on energy security, diversification, and sustainability. Therefore, electricity generation using nuclear power will contribute to reducing carbon emissions and meeting international climate agreements, such as the **Paris Agreement** and within **UN Sustainable Development Goals, as SDG – 07, as affordable and Clean Energy**.

We also underscore the vital importance of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme, which remains a cornerstone of development for countries like ours. We are pleased to note the high implementation rate achieved by the Technical Cooperation Department in 2024, and we look forward to further collaboration under this framework.

Sri Lanka welcomes the Agency's Financial Statements for 2024 and acknowledges the importance of a sound financial foundation for the effective delivery of its six Major Programmes. We take note of the revised proposal for the Programme and Budget 2026-2027, appreciate the cost-saving measures undertaken, and encourage the Agency to continue pursuing efficiency while maintaining **the quality and reach** of its services.

The Technical Cooperation (TC) Programmes of the IAEA for Sri Lanka focuses on priority areas such as nuclear and radiation safety and security, food and agriculture, health and nutrition, water resources management, energy and industry, environmental monitoring and human resources development for nuclear applications. There are six TC projects already approved for the 2024-2025 programme cycle. For the 2026-2027 cycle, Sri Lanka has proposed 05 new TC projects, in the areas of nuclear power infrastructure development, nuclear medicines, animal health, food safety, and radiation safety infrastructure development.

Mr. President,

The SLAEB initiated the establishment of a Cyclotron based radiopharmaceutical production facility to support Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanning for cancer diagnosis in Sri Lanka. From the planning stage, the project received technical assistance from the IAEA through two TC projects. The foundation laying ceremony was held on 8th November 2024 and the joint venture company secured a total budget of USD 6.5 million and all regulatory approvals for construction and operations were obtained, including:

- Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council (SLAERC)
- National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA)
- Central Environmental Authority (CEA)

The project has also been formally registered with the Board of Investment (BOI) in Sri Lanka, enabling specific investment and operational benefits. Civil construction of cyclotron facility commenced in March 2025 and as per 31 August 2025, 65% of civil construction and 40% of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) work had been completed. Installation of the cyclotron system is expected to be completed by December 2025, and this milestone will mark a transformative step in advancing nuclear medicine in Sri Lanka and significantly improving access to PET imaging for cancer diagnosis and treatment planning.

In addition, SLAEB coordinated with IAEA and assisted to conduct 04 follow-up review missions in Sri Lanka during 2025, to uplift the peaceful applications of Nuclear Science and technology in the Sri Lankan context.

In 2025, the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council has advanced several key initiatives to strengthen the country's nuclear infrastructure. These include:

- **Legislative Modernization:** Following Cabinet approval in early 2024, Sri Lanka is in the process of drafting a new legal framework to replace the Atomic Energy Act No. 40 of 2014. This new legislation aims to align with international safety standards and provide a comprehensive basis for the peaceful use of nuclear power.
- **Regulatory Capacity Building:** SLAERC has intensified efforts to expand its regulatory infrastructure, focusing on safety, security, safeguards, and civil liability. A high-level delegation engaged with IAEA legal and technical experts in Vienna in June 2024, to ensure that the draft law reflects global best practices.

Also, in July this year Mr. President, a high-level delegation led by the Honorable Speaker of Sri Lanka Parliament took part in a consultative meeting with the IAEA on adherence to global nuclear security framework with focus on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment, in Vienna, reflecting Sri Lanka's continuous engagement with the IAEA.

Mr. President, Sri Lanka reaffirms its unwavering support for the IAEA's mission to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity, across the globe.

Thank you, Mr. President