Honorable Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to warmly congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this 69th General Conference and to wish you every success in leading its important work.

It is a great privilege to address this distinguished audience on behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency for its continuous support in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies, in strengthening nuclear safety and security, and in contributing to sustainable nuclear energy development in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan remains fully committed to the goals of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of atomic energy. As a responsible party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and under the Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, Uzbekistan diligently fulfils its international obligations.

Over the past two years, Uzbekistan has made notable progress in strengthening its national framework for nuclear and radiation safety. We have developed a comprehensive state system for accounting and control of nuclear materials in line with international standards. Nuclear applications are increasingly contributing to healthcare, agriculture, and energy, while many of our specialists have benefited from advanced training, often with the Agency's support.

A highlight of our cooperation was the visit of Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi to Uzbekistan in December 2024, during which he was received by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev. That visit laid the foundation for the elaboration of a joint *Roadmap for Partnership*, covering 2025–2030, which was finalized in Vienna earlier this year.

Another priority for Uzbekistan is our integration into the global nuclear safety framework. This year alone, Uzbekistan acceded to three key international conventions, thereby reinforcing our commitment to the principles of transparency, responsibility, and global solidarity.

We attach high importance to IAEA flagship initiatives such as *Atoms4Food*, *Rays of Hope*, and the *SMR Platform*. We are grateful for the Agency's valuable technical assistance, in particular with respect to regional tailing site safety, INIR and SEED missions, and energy system modeling with advanced reactor technologies.

In May this year, Uzbekistan took part in the second IWP roundtable in Vienna, which updated our Nuclear Infrastructure Profile and defined a comprehensive implementation plan for 2025–2027. The IAEA's recognition of Uzbekistan's systematic and forward-looking approach is an encouragement for us to move ahead with determination, especially in the area of small modular reactors.

These efforts are producing visible results: strengthened national regulation, enhanced safety standards, improved healthcare through nuclear medicine, greater agricultural productivity, and the prospect of clean and reliable energy from nuclear sources. All of these align with the Sustainable Development Goals and reflect Uzbekistan's aspiration to contribute positively to regional and global cooperation.

Looking to the future, Uzbekistan stands ready to broaden its engagement with the Agency. We value continued support in capacity-building, research, and technical cooperation, and we look forward to the forthcoming INIR Follow-up Mission in 2026.

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, in conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Uzbekistan's firm commitment to deepening our partnership with the IAEA, in the shared pursuit of sustainable development, global nuclear safety, and peace.

Thank you for your attention.