



Bangladesh

Statement by
Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh
at the 59th Session of General Conference of IAEA
Vienna, 14-18 September 2015

Mr. President,
Mr. Director General (Mr. Yukiya Amano),
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning/Good afternoon to all of you

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election as the President of the 59th session of the General Conference of IAEA. I also congratulate the Vice Presidents, Chairmen of the Committees and other elected officials of the Bureau. We fully trust that under your competent leadership this Session of the General Conference would attain all its objectives. We assure you and your colleagues of our fullest support and cooperation.

I also take this privilege to thanking the outgoing President of the Session of the General Conference for his valuable contribution.

I take this opportunity to thank the Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano for his dependable and successful leadership.

We welcome the new member states and congratulate them on their entry into the IAEA family.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh enjoys a wonderful relationship with IAEA that actually stems from our inherent confidence in the pivotal role of IAEA in coordinating international efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety, security and safeguards in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina often expresses her deep appreciation regarding the cooperation that exists between the IAEA and the Government of Bangladesh. The Constitution of Bangladesh acknowledges the responsibility of the state to ensure food, health and energy security for our people and to this end, we are working to materialize the government's economic policies and goals to achieve the Vision 2021 and 2041 to be a higher middle-income and a front-ranking developed nation, respectively.

In this pursuit Bangladesh recognizes the importance of the extended use of atomic energy in various sectors. We believe that support of IAEA will further strengthen our efforts to achieve the goal of socio-economic uplift of the nation.

Excellencies,

Bangladesh has a strong credential for peaceful use of nuclear energy over the decades. However, our foray into nuclear power generation is fairly recent. As a late entrant, we have perhaps the advantage of using the latest technology for ensuring nuclear safety and security, and also for learning from the experiences of others who have made major progress in this sector.

Bangladesh is introducing nuclear energy as a safe, environmentally benign and economically viable source of electrical energy to meet the increasing electricity needs of the country and address how to reduce the supply-demand gap in our energy requirement in the medium to long term, and thus unlock our development potentials through enhanced productivity and sustained growth. By 2030, the country aims to generate about 40,000 MWe in which about 10%

(about 4,000 MWe) of total electricity is targeted to be generated from nuclear sources. The government has taken practical steps to build the first NPP of the country, the "Rooppur NPP" with net output capacity about 2400 MWe by 2022 to ensure energy security for inclusive development of the country. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took initiatives to achieve certain key milestones towards concluding the bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Russian Federation. We can now expect nuclear power to be added to our national grid by the beginning of the next decade.

In this context, I would like to highlight that there will be no short-cut to building our capacity in terms of infrastructure development, trained human resources and application of new generation technology. We have already been working closely with the IAEA to address our current capacity deficits. We are implementing the Integrated Work Plan for national infrastructure developed jointly with the IAEA following the guidelines of the Agency. Our Government shall continue to expand opportunities to make sure that our investment in capacity building remains a strategic policy priority.

Mr. President,

In Implementing NPP project, Bangladesh is attaching top priority to the issues of radiological protection as well as nuclear safety and security. Bangladesh has established Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority, an independent regulatory body to regulate and oversee all safety aspects of nuclear material and installations, physical protection and export/import control, state system of accounting for and control of nuclear material, waste safety, transport safety of radioactive material as well as emergency preparedness and response. In addition to that we have established Nuclear Power Plant Company Bangladesh Limited as the operating organization with a view to ensuring national and international obligations regarding implementation of NPP projects and operation and maintenance of the plants. We have confidence in IAEA and in its guidelines and recommended safety measures.

The codes, standards guides and of the IAEA as well as internationally accepted practices will be strictly followed in all phases of design, construction, operation and maintenance of the NPP.

It is perhaps needless to say that our pursuit of nuclear energy generation would be solidly anchored at our principled position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As a State Party to the NPT, we look forward to effectively participating in the upcoming NPT Review Conference, and sharing the progress we have made so far in various aspects of nuclear non-proliferation at the national level.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The IAEA is our main partner for promotion of safe and secure applications of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. Through the TC programme, the Agency has been cooperating and assisting Bangladesh in human resources development and capacity building for introduction, development and making peaceful use of nuclear techniques in various economic sectors of the country. Some of the TC projects such as 'Developing National Infrastructure for the First Nuclear Power Programme Phase II', 'Improvement in Livestock Production', 'Improvement of Agriculture in Drought Areas', 'Isotope Production for Medical Practices', NDT Practices in Industry', 'Isotope Hydrology in Water Management, and above all, the development of human resources, constitute a part of the success story. We hope that such support from the IAEA would continue in future.

Mr. President,

We consider the Regional Cooperation Agreement (RCA) as a powerful tool to promote and coordinate research and development activities to answer national problems through utilizing the regional experience, expertise and resources. Bangladesh is confident that RCA would continue to promote regional capabilities and expertise in different thematic areas like energy, health, agriculture, industry and environment, research reactor and radioactive waste management, nuclear safety and radiation protection.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I wish every success of the 59th IAEA GC and hope that its outcome would greatly facilitate the shaping of the future programmes of the Agency and the Member States in such a way that the people could be the ultimate beneficiary of the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Thank you.