Statement by the Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation, Director General of State Atomic Energy Corporation «Rosatom» Alexey Likhachev at the 61-st session of the IAEA General Conference

Dear Ms. Chairperson!

Please accept my congratulations on your election as Chairman of the 61st Session of the General Conference.

We welcome the new member of the Agency – Grenada.

I

The IAEA plays the essential role in developing safe nuclear energy technologies, in creating the necessary infrastructure for their embracement, in introducing new-comer countries to the advantages offered by nuclear energy. Hence, the support provided by all of us, member-states, to the statutory activities of the IAEA is of fundamental importance.

The position of the Russian Federation on this essential issue is very clear and open. We have always supported, do support and will be supporting the IAEA as the key international organization in charge of the entire range of issues pertaining to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This has been repeatedly emphasized by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, in particular, in his address on the occasion of the IAEA's 60th anniversary.

It is crucially important for the Agency to maintain a non-politicized, professional approach in its activity. From our point of view, the Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano has been successfully coping with this challenging task.

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Yukiya Amano on his re-appointment for the third term to this high and responsible position.

Russia is involved in the IAEA activities in a comprehensive manner. We are making our contribution through financial donations, through specific technical works (the so called 'in-kinds'), and through intellectual resources.

We have started implementing joint projects with the IAEA in setting up nuclear energy infrastructure and safety regulation infrastructure.

We support the Agency's Safeguards activities, including in the context of fulfilling obligations stipulated by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Russia proceeds from the understanding that the JCPOA represents a honed balance of interests of the Parties involved in the process and must be strictly adhered to in its entirety.

II

The year that passed since the previous session of the General Conference was marked for us by many serious and remarkable events.

The first unit of Novovoronezh NPP-II was commissioned for commercial operation. So far this unit remains the only operating light-water nuclear power unit of Generation 3+ in the world. In total, there are now 5 units of Generation 3+ under construction in Russia.

Kudankulam NPP Unit 2 was handed over to the Indian nation, the work on the construction of Units 3 and 4 of this Plant is being deployed, and the full package of documentation for Units 5 and 6 has been signed.

Construction of Russian-design power units is underway in Belarus and China.

We are carrying out preparatory activities and creating the necessary infrastructure for the construction of new power units at the site of Akkuyu in Turkey, Paks in Hungary, Hanhikivi in Finland, Bushehr in Iran and Ruppur in Bangladesh.

Together with our Egyptian partners, we are getting ready for the start of works at the site of El-Dabaa NPP, and together with our Armenian colleagues, we are extending the life of the existing Unit at Metsamorsk NPP.

We mark Jordan's progress in developing national nuclear programme and nuclear infrastructure in the framework of implementing the project of the construction of the first nuclear power plant of Russian design in the country.

In Bolivia we are conducting preparatory works for the construction of the Nuclear Research and Technology Center. We have signed a package of documents for the construction of a similar center with Zambia.

Finally, let me mention the Floating Nuclear Heat Power Plant (FNHPP) "Akademik Lomonosov". We are now completing its construction in Saint-Petersburg. I am sure that the future of the world nuclear power is largely linked to the development of small and medium sized reactors in general, and to floating nuclear power units in particular.

And, finally, some words about shaping the prospective agenda. We are convinced that the world nuclear power development is inextricably linked to fast neutron reactors and closed nuclear fuel cycles. We are constructing the MBIR reactor in the city of Dimitrovgrad. It is a multipurpose fast neutron research reactor. The ambitious "Proryv" project ("Break-through") is being implemented in the city of Seversk, which envisages the construction of an experimental demonstration

complex, including a fast neutron reactor, fabrication of high-density mixed uranium-plutonium fuel and a spent nuclear fuel reprocessing facility.

III

We are facing two strategic challenges today.

First, energy poverty and world inequality in accessing electrical power.

Second, the threat of irreversible destruction of the ecosystem on the planetary scale.

It is only possible to address these two challenges through growth and simultaneous change in the world balance of energy generation. We must minimize the share of fossil fuels. This is our responsibility to our descendants.

Let me emphasize that the contribution of the nuclear generation to the planet's environment is great even now. The installed capacity of the world nuclear industry amounts to 392 GW. If all this capacity was generated by coal and gas, about two billion tons more of carbon dioxide would be emitted into the atmosphere annually. Just for your understanding, all the planet's forests annually absorb 2.5 bln tons of carbon dioxide. Roughly speaking, it means that nuclear power is commensurate with the "ecological capacity" of the entire planet's forests!

Everyone understands that the future belongs to the "green" energy. The sun, the wind, water and atom, complementing and synergizing each other should form the green square that will become the foundation of the future world carbon-free balance.

According to the forecast of the International Energy Agency, the overall share of "clean" generation in the world energy mix by 2050 should exceed 80 %. The installed capacity of NPPs is to increase to 930 GW. This means that considering the need to substitute the existing nuclear power units scheduled for decommissioning, in just ten years' time from now we will have to commission annually over 20 GW of new nuclear generation capacities.
This is a very ambitious, yet doable task. Its fulfilment will primarily depend on us – the countries that made their choice in favour of developing nuclear power.

We are not competitors – all "green" sources of energy are part of the solution to the problem of global climate change. But we need a new level of cooperation in the international nuclear community.

The first area of cooperation is nuclear safety. We support the Secretariat's drive to enhance the requirements in this area. We are ready to contribute our competences and resources to reinforce this activity.

Second, it is important to change nuclear power's reputation. We respect the choice of each country to develop, or not to develop, national nuclear power. Importantly, this decision should be made relying on scientific knowledge rather than phobia. We must now convince society, governments, scientific and expert communities that nuclear energy is clean, safe and cost-effective.

In Russia and in countries with new Russian nuclear build, we have been making a systematic effort to raise public acceptance of nuclear energy. We have good experience in doing this, and we are ready to share our expertise.

To our belief, these considerations should be reflected in relevant resolutios of the IAEA General Conference. Furthermore, this approach should be captured in the final document of the forthcoming IAEA Ministerial Conference in Abu-Dhabi.

Four years ago we stated at the Ministerial Conference in St. Petersburg that for many countries, nuclear energy is a proved, clean, safe and economically attractive technology.

Now we must make a next step, to move from enhancing public acceptance of nuclear energy to shaping demand in its development from society.

Russia will offer specific proposals on this shortly.

The world nuclear industry could and should make full use of its technological leadership potential to become one of the major drivers of the fourth industrial revolution.