



**Statement on Agenda Item 89: "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency" in the Plenary of the 77th Session of the UNGA (9 November 2022)**

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**Mr. President,**

Allow me to begin by expressing our appreciation for IAEA's annual report for 2021 and the efforts put in by the Agency and Director General Rafael Mariano Grossito promote the goal of advancing peaceful sources of energy for sustainable development and building resilient economies.

The report gives a useful snapshot of its activities that in addition to covering of the increasing urgent issue of climate change focus on other key issues, such as, transfer of nuclear technologies for peaceful applications, nuclear safety and security and nuclear verification and non-proliferation efforts worldwide.

**Mr. President,**

As a founding member of the IAEA, Pakistan ardently supports the Agency's role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in accordance with its motto "Atom for Peace and Development".

Harnessing nuclear technology is a priority for Pakistan for the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals and addressing poverty. Today, we are using nuclear technologies and applications in Pakistan in diverse fields, such as, power generation, health, agriculture, industry and environmental protection.

We view nuclear energy as a reliable, consistent and carbon free source of electricity generation. Our efforts to expand nuclear power generation and to increase its share in the national energy mix are driven by the fact that we are not only an energy deficient country, but also one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change.

The recent debilitating effects of climate change—which are being felt strongly by my own country in the wake of the recent unprecedented floods—have heightened vulnerabilities of other countries and people around the globe.

The ongoing catastrophic floods in Pakistan showed an urgent need of global action to curb Green House Gas (GHG) emission. One third of our country remains under water and 33 million people are in tatters, with losses and damages amounting to a tenth of the GDP of the country. Such global issues require global solutions, close and unrestricted cooperation. In fact, access to nuclear power is the need of the hour.

**Mr. President,**

In Pakistan, we are taking steps to limit our GHG emissions. Pakistan's National energy mix is consistently re-evaluated. With the coming on line of the sixth operating nuclear reactor, the actual contribution of nuclear in the energy mix has increased to about 15%. Karachi Nuclear Power Plant K-3, this year has increased our nuclear power generation capacity to 3,530 MW.

Pakistan has been one of the leading partners of IAEA's Technical Cooperation programme for a number of years. At present, a project in the field of nuclear power development has been successfully implemented, while three more projects in the areas of Agriculture, Human Health and Nuclear Power have been designed for the TC Cycle 2022-23.

**Mr. President,**

The IAEA's role as the world's focal point in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy assumes greater significance in view of diverse challenges of environment and proliferation and can make a significant contribution in meeting the needs and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by ensuring equitable access to nuclear materials, technology and equipment for peaceful purposes.

Considering nuclear safety and security as a National responsibility, Pakistan has developed a comprehensive nuclear safety and security regime, which is regularly reviewed and updated in the light of the IAEA guidance documents and international best practices.

The regime is based on an extensive legislative and regulatory framework governing the security of nuclear materials, radioactive substances, associated facilities and activities. This is backed by strong institutions and organizations with the requisite authorities, resources and trained manpower for effective implementation.

Our affiliated institutes at Centre of Excellence on nuclear security have transformed into an international hub for imparting training and sharing best practices in the area of nuclear security.

**Mr. President,**

The safety and verification aspects of the IAEA mandate remain important pillars of the Agency's mandate. As regards the strengthening of the safeguards system, Pakistan stresses the need for a balanced approach between the promotional aspects and safety or security related concerns in all of the Agency's functions.

We share the view that all States should fully comply with their respective safeguards obligations. At the same time, the Agency's safeguards should not be used to serve partisan political objectives. Its verification regime could remain credible only if it is applied on a non-discriminatory basis, as stipulated in the Agency's Statute.

Recent developments have revealed that the old consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation has broken down. We propose convening a Special Session of the UN General Assembly to evolve a new consensus, which responds to the current and emerging realities and offers equal security to all states, large and small.

This new consensus should eliminate the discrimination and double standards that characterize the present non-proliferation arrangements. It should also evolve an agreed basis for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under appropriate international safeguards, in accordance with the international obligations of States and on a non-discriminatory basis.

**I thank you.**