Statement by Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, on Agenda Item 84: “Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)” in the Plenary of the 60th UNGA, 31 October 2005

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Pakistan delegation, I extend heartiest felicitations to Director General Dr. El Baradei and to the International Atomic Energy Agency for having received the Noble Peace Prize. This is well deserved recognition of the vital work and important achievements of Dr. Baradei and the Agency.

2. We also warmly congratulate Dr. Baradei on his reappointment as the IAEA’s Director General for another term. Both the Nobel Prize and his re-election reflect the confidence reposed by the international community in Dr. Baradei’s dynamic leadership in a complex and challenging international environment. We assure Dr. Baradei and his colleagues of our full support and cooperation for achieving progress and prosperity for all.

3. We continue to share the Agency’s assessment that global socio-economic development needs will require a large increase in the supply of energy in the coming decades. The role of nuclear energy will be crucial in supplying part of this requirement since nuclear power can serve the goals of sustainable economic growth as well as environmental protection.

4. We note with interest that sixty percent of new power reactors are being built in the developing world. The Agency reported last year that of 31 reactors under construction worldwide, 20 were located in Asia and 19 of the 28 reactors to be connected to the grids were in the Far East and South Asia. The pace of the construction of these reactors could be further increased if most states were not subjected to undue restrictions. The IAEA’s role in the transfer of safe technology to developing countries has assumed added significance. We hope that the Agency will formulate a comprehensive policy to facilitate this objective.

Mr. President,

5. As one of its earliest Members of the IAEA, Pakistan has long been a strong advocate of promoting and harnessing nuclear technology for peace, progress and prosperity for all.

6. We attach the highest importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA. We have benefited from and contributed to this programme through training, provision of experts and hosting of seminars and workshops. We are pleased to note that the overall implementation rate of the IAEA’s Technical Cooperation activities in Pakistan during 2004 achieved a record high of 75.8%. We look forward to the strengthening and expansion of the Technical Cooperation role and its contribution to economic progress of the developing countries.

Mr. President,

7. In recent years, Pakistan’s economy has registered high economic growth. The Government of Pakistan has launched a 25 year “Energy Security Plan” to respond to the high economic growth rate and to cater for the rising demand for energy by a population of over 150 million.

8. Nuclear power generation is an indispensable element of Pakistan’s national energy strategy. By the year 2030, our per capita consumption of electricity is expected to rise to only 3920 KWhr/year as compared to the present 13,800 KWhr/year in the developed world. Our limited fossil fuel resources with a growing population and an expanding economy, on the one
hand, and the projected energy consumption by burning coal from the current 6.5% to 19% in 2030 on the other hand, present a great challenge of balancing between pollution and sustained economic growth.

9. Our Energy Plan envisages substantial increase of nuclear electricity generation from the present 425 MWe to 8800 MWe by the year 2030 – representing an increase in the share of nuclear energy from the present 0.8% to 4.2%.

10. For over 30 years, Pakistan has enjoyed an excellent operational and safety record of its two nuclear power plants, KANUPP and CHASNUPP which both operate under IAEA Safeguards. The existence of reliable infrastructure has enabled us to commence work on another nuclear power station – CHASNUPP II.

11. As we seek to operationalize our “Energy Security Plan”, we envisage the import of nuclear plants and the other relevant civilian nuclear technology. Given our record of safety, the application of IAEA Safeguards on our civilian nuclear power plants, and the strict controls in place on all our nuclear facilities, programmes and technologies, Pakistan expects that the international community shall extend its support and cooperation to meet our rising nuclear power generation needs and its various applications in a number of areas.

Mr. President,

12. Pakistan highly values the commendable role being played by the IAEA in the development and transfer of peaceful nuclear technology in agriculture, food, human health, water resources management, protection of the environment and industrial applications. We share the Agency’s view that “many of these applications are proving to be important tools for social and economic development around the world”.

13. We are pleased to note that the IAEA assisted programme to set up a nuclear desalination plant at Karachi Nuclear Power Plant is making good progress. This plant, which will have a capacity of 1600 cubic meters per day, should be operational by the year 2007.

14. Pakistan’s four nuclear agriculture centres are engaged in helping farmers grow and harvest more crops. Our first commercial food irradiation plant is now under construction and should be operational by the end of next year. It is located next to the existing irradiation facility for medical products.

15. The 13 nuclear medicine and oncology centres operated by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission continue to provide facilities to over one third of a million patients per year. The Government of Pakistan is planning to establish as many as 5 more nuclear medical centres.

Mr. President,

16. We accord the highest level of importance to the safety and security of our nuclear installations, particularly as we expand our nuclear power generation capacity for economic development. Pakistan has successfully established a strong safety culture in its nuclear activities. We are diligently adhering to the principles of Nuclear Safety Convention, which Pakistan had signed at the time of its inception.

17. We have further strengthened security measures around our nuclear installations to avoid any possibility of sabotage or illicit acquisition or trafficking of nuclear material. We actively participated in the proceedings leading to the amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Pakistan was one of the first countries to ratify the
Convention on Nuclear Safety and has subjected itself to review by its peers at all the three meetings of the Contracting Parties held since its inception.

Mr. President,

18. Pakistan has taken additional steps to augment the safety and security of nuclear installations and to prevent WMD proliferation. These include:

   - Effective steps, in cooperation with the international community, to eliminate an underground proliferation network which had its tentacles in two dozen countries. We have actively cooperated with the IAEA in this endeavour. We urge other concerned countries to do likewise.

   - Wide ranging security measures for its nuclear and strategic assets. A Nuclear Command and Control Authority responsible for Pakistan's strategic assets is in place since the year 2000. These assets are vital for our strategic deterrence posture. There is no question of their falling into the wrong hands.

   - An independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) is in its fifth year of existence to ensure safe operation of nuclear plants. The PNRA has received IRRT and RaSIA international peer review missions, and has an aggressive action plan to address the recommendations of these missions.

   - Last year, Pakistan's Parliament promulgated a comprehensive Export Control Act which further built upon the existing regime to deal with nuclear and biological weapons, material, goods, technologies, equipment and their means of delivery. Salient elements of our new law include: prohibition of diversion of controlled goods and technologies, including re-export, transshipment and transit; licensing and record keeping; export control lists and penal provisions of up to 14 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5 million. We are confident that there will be no proliferation of WMD from Pakistan.

Mr. President,

19. The safety and verification aspects of the IAEA mandate remain important pillars of the Agency's mandate. As regards the strengthening of the Agency's 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.

20. We support the call for States to 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 Statutes. Cooperation and greater understanding is required among all the Member States of the Agency to advance the Agency's mandate on the basis of impartiality, equity and professionalism. Efforts are also required to 'correct' the public perception of IAEA as being just a 'nuclear watchdog' agency. Its primary role in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology needs to be reemphasized.

21. We remain convinced that the IAEA activities must conform to its statutory responsibilities, its legal authority as well as under international law. We share the view that the IAEA is not an investigative agency. It cannot be asked to perform tasks, which are beyond the scope of its Statute or not approved by its Membership. Any reform in the Agency should be non-discriminatory, inclusive and take into account the differentiated nature of obligations of member states.
Mr. President,

22. We also continue to believe that the following measures could help in enhancing the Agency’s contribution to socio-economic development, promoting nuclear safety and security and its verification role:

**One:** Preservation of its technical nature and preventing the politicization of its agenda;

**Two:** A greater emphasis on the technical cooperation activities of the Agency and its contribution to the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses and technology transfers to developing countries.

**Three:** Allocation of larger and more assured resources for technical cooperation activities, technology transfer and training facilities for the developing countries.

**Four:** Greater involvement of the developing countries in the design and implementation of Technical Cooperation projects and increased outsourcing to developing Member States for its Technical Cooperation Programme.

I thank you, Mr. President.