Madam President,

I join other speakers in thanking Dr. El Baradei for presenting the Annual Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We are confident that the IAEA, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. El-Baradei, shall continue its laudable work to promote, in particular, peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We assure Dr. Baradei and his team our full support.

Madam President,

2. We share the Agency’s assessment that global need for energy is growing in view of rising oil and natural gas prices. We also agree with the identification of other future trends by the Agency i.e. environmental constraints on the use of fossil fuels; concerns about energy supply security and expansion plans for nuclear power. The role of nuclear energy will therefore be crucial specially for the socio-economic development needs of the developing countries.

3. We continue to note with interest that out of the 26 nuclear power plants under construction worldwide, the majority i.e. 15 are located in Asia. The pace of construction of these plants could be further increased if states are not subjected to undue restrictions. We hope that the Agency would formulate a comprehensive policy towards this end.

Madam President,

4. As one of its earliest Member State, Pakistan has long been a strong advocate of promoting and harnessing of nuclear technology for peace, progress and prosperity for all. On its part, Pakistan has established several training centres including a full-fledged university for nuclear science and engineering - meeting both our own needs of technical manpower and training requirements of other countries, including through the Agency’s Technical Cooperation Programme.

5. Pakistan has developed the entire range of nuclear fuel cycle facilities. We now have two nuclear power plants in operation, while a third one is under construction. Parallel to the development of nuclear fuel cycle, an extensive programme for application of nuclear technology and radioisotopes in agriculture, hydrology, medical and industrial sectors is also underway.

6. In agriculture, Pakistan has established four nuclear agricultural research centres in various parts of the country, which are engaged in research work for helping farmers grow and harvest more and better quality crops. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission’s Agricultural Research Institutes, utilizing nuclear techniques, have been able to evolve 57 crop varieties characterized by their higher yield, resistance to various pests and diseases. Similarly, the indigenous development of bio-fertilizers offers cost-effective solutions to various crops affected by chemical fertilizers. Plans are underway to establish five
Commercial Food Irradiators in different cities. These irradiation facilities shall help enhance exports of food commodities, especially fruits and vegetables.

7. In the area of medical science, Pakistan has 13 nuclear medicine and oncology centres providing diagnostic and treatment facilities to several hundred thousand patients each year. About seventy percent of these patients are provided free treatment. Six more nuclear medical centres are being built.

8. We attach highest importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA. We have benefited from and contributed to it in the form of training, provision of experts and hosting of seminars and workshops. We are pleased to note that the overall implementation rate of IAEA's Technical Cooperation activities in Pakistan during 2004 achieved a record high of 75.8%. We look forward to its further strengthening and expansion.

Madam President,

9. In recent years, Pakistan's economy has registered a remarkable growth rate. As a country with more than 150 million people, Pakistan considers nuclear power generation as an indispensable element of our national energy security strategy. The Government of Pakistan has therefore launched a 25 year “Energy Security Plan” to respond to this high growth rate and to cater for the rising demand for energy.

10. This Plan envisages the 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 only 4.2%. By year 2030, our per capita consumption of electricity is expected to rise to only 3920 KWh/year as compared to the present 13,800 KWh/year in the developed world.

11. Our limited fossil fuel resources coupled with a growing population and an expanding economy, on the one hand, and the projected energy consumption by burning coal alone from the current 6.5% to 19% in 2030 on the other hand, present a great challenge of balancing between industrial pollution and sustained economic growth.

12. For over 30 years, Pakistan has enjoyed an excellent operational and safety record of its two nuclear power plants, KANUPP and CHASNUPP. The existence of a reliable infrastructure relevant to the nuclear power plants has enabled us to commence work on another nuclear power station – CHASNUPP II.

13. As we seek to operationalize our “Energy Security Plan”, we envisage the import of nuclear plants and other relevant civilian nuclear technology. We hope that the international community shall adopt a non-discriminatory and criteria-based approach in extending civil nuclear technology and cooperation to developing countries.

Madam President,

14. 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.
15. We have further strengthened security measures around our nuclear installations to avoid any possibility of sabotage or illicit acquisition or trafficking of nuclear material. Pakistan has subjected itself to review by its peers at all the three meetings of the Contracting Parties held since its inception.

16. Pakistan has also been participating in Agency’s Advisory/Expert Groups such as SAGTAC, INPRO and INDAG. We value the Agency’s efforts in coordinating and disseminating information on the latest developments in nuclear power technology. We suggest further strengthening of the Agency’s program in Nuclear Knowledge Management and Information Services.

Madam President,

17. 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. In the broader context of the Agency’s work, we attach great importance to the proposal for the expansion of the Board of Governors and making it more representative. We urge Member States to consider this issue with an open mind and take an early action.

18. 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 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 a ‘nuclear watchdog’ agency only. Its primary role in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology needs to be re-emphasized.

Madam President,

19. Recent developments have revealed that the old consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation has broken down. Pakistan has proposed convening a Special Conference to evolve a new consensus which responds to the current and emerging realities. Such a Conference could help promote universal nuclear disarmament under verified international controls. 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. Above all, as advocated by Dr. El-Baradei ways and means must be found to normalize the relationship between the NPT regime and the non-NPT nuclear weapon states.

I thank you Madam President.