



BANGLADESH

Statement by
Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble State Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh
at the 58th Session of General Conference of IAEA
Vienna, 22 - 26 September 2014

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

Good Afternoon

Please accept, Mr. President, my warm felicitations on your election as President of the 58th Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). I congratulate the Vice Presidents, Chairman of the Committees and other elected officials of the Bureau. We fully trust that under your able 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 thank the outgoing President of the Session of the General Conference for his valuable contribution.

I take this opportunity to thank the Director General, Yukiya Amano for his unfailing leadership.

We welcome the new member states to the family of IAEA.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh enjoys an enviable 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 in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina always expresses her deep appreciation regarding the mutual 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 for implementing the 'Vision 2021' declared by the government to transform Bangladesh into a knowledge-based, technology driven, digitized middle income country. 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 has made major progress in this sector.

Our first initiative, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, has been on the drawing board since 1961. But, it has only become a reality when Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took initiatives to achieve certain key milestones towards concluding the bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Russian Federation. Thanks to these continued efforts, we can now expect nuclear power to be added to our national grid by the beginning of the next decade. This safe, environment-friendly source of energy would surely enrich our energy mix, address the widening 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.

In this context, I would like to highlight that there will be no short-cut to building our capacity in terms of trained human resources and application of new generation technology. We have already been working closely with the IAEA and the Russian Federation, among others, to address our current capacity deficits. 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 its first NPP Bangladesh is giving top priority to the issues of radiological protection, nuclear safety and security. Bangladesh is committed to strengthening the independence and effectiveness of national regulatory authorities to regulate and oversee safety and physical protection of nuclear materials and installations, safeguards and import and export control, state system of accounting for and control of nuclear material, transport and waste safety, transport of radioactive materials, emergency preparedness and response. Civil liability for nuclear damage that may arise in connection with nuclear power programme will be regulated by the domestic laws of Bangladesh.

We have confidence in IAEA and in its guidelines and other safety measures. The codes, guides and standards 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 in our principled position

on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As a State Party to the NPT, we look forward to effectively participating in the 2015 NPT Review Conference, and sharing the progress we have made till date with various aspects of nuclear non-proliferation at the national level. To this end, Bangladesh reaffirms the need for the speedy establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 of 1981 and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991 and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus.

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 resource development and capacity building for introduction, development and making peaceful use of nuclear techniques in various economic sectors of the country. We hope that such support from the IAEA would continue in future.

Mr. President,

We consider the RCA is 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 58th 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 may be the ultimate beneficiary of the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Thank you.