Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear Mr. Director General,

Dear delegates,

Let me announce the opening address to the forum members from the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin.

“I express my greetings to the participants of the jubilee – 60th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

During its existence, the IAEA has proven itself as a leading industry specific international organization. Effective cooperation of the IAEA member states is devoted to decision of the most important task of maintaining clear verified balance between development of peaceful use of atomic energy and strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Our country stood at the origins of the IAEA, made a significant intellectual and technical contribution to the Agency’s formation. Today Russia continues to firmly keep leading positions in nuclear power engineering and has successful experience of NPP construction worldwide. Herewith, we ultimately develop our national nuclear power engineering and cooperation with our foreign partners in compliance with the IAEA rules and regulations.

We are strictly devoted to provisions of the IAEA Statute and appeal to all the states to follow consistently its spirit and letter. And in future we intend to render the Agency a comprehensive support considering new challenges and tasks confronted by the world community.

I wish you fruitful work and all the best.

V. Putin»

Dear Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to emphasize the role of nuclear power engineering in reduction of man-induced activity impact on the ecology.

Nuclear power engineering is an obligatory condition of low-carbon balance. It provides a long-term guarantee of price and base load stability without producing CO_2. Independence from climate factors and geographical position is its other advantage.

Another important thing is its energy potential. The mankind will always strive for obtaining the maximum benefit from the resources available. It is well-known that 98% of extracted useful energy is contained in three elements. These are uranium 238, deuterium and thorium. Usage of 1 kg of uranium is 88 thousand times more efficient than burning of 1 kg of coal.

Nuclear power development is a real form of contribution to fulfillment of the decisions of the Paris Summit on Climate Change. A target was set therein – to retain the increase of global average temperature below 2°C. By 2022 all the countries will have to approve national programmes to achieve this target and upload them to the web-page of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Specific characteristics of each country should be taken into account, while transparency of this work should be insured.

Only the IAEA possesses the unique tools for nuclear energy system assessment developed under INPRO project initiated by the Russian Federation.

Our proposal is to review and adapt the set of tools created by the IAEA in order to establish a service package that will help the IAEA member states prepare national reports and programmes of emission reduction following an integrated procedure.

Today two key requirements for new projects of NPP construction have been established. They need to meet all post-Fukushima requirements and to envisage solution of issues related to spent nuclear fuel and radioactive wastes management. In this regard I would like to mention some of the latest key events.

First, in August of this year the power startup of Unit 6 of Novovoronezh NPP was performed in Russia. This is the first NPP 3+ generation project in the world implemented in line with all IAEA post-Fukushima standards. A number of similar units are being designed and constructed now, but this is the first one that has been connected to power grid.

Secondly, in August the fast neutron reactor BN-800 was brought to 100% power in Russia. On the one hand, being connected to the grid, it is a full-scale power reactor. On the other hand, this is a prototype of the future reactors. Innovative nuclear fuel cycle approaches are tested on its base, including operation with the fuel manufactured using the reprocessing products of light water reactor spent fuel.

An important step was made in development of global strategy for efficient accumulated spent nuclear fuel management. In the end of the last year we commissioned a fabrication plant for production of MOX-fuel for fast neutron reactors at the Mining and Chemical Combine (GKhK) in Zheleznogorsk. Its industrial capacity fully covers BN-800 demands.

A pilot production of brand new nitride uranium-plutonium fuel for fast neutron reactors has been established at the Siberian Chemical Combine (SKhK) in Seversk. It allows reducing the radioactivity of obtained waste to the level of natural uranium.

In July a delegation of high-ranking diplomats accredited to the IAEA visited two operating fast neutron reactors at the Beloyarsk NPP site. The colleagues were provided with the opportunity to see with their own eyes that the closure of nuclear fuel cycle is not a speculative concept, but quite a realistic project. We find such visits very important. I want to thank all the colleagues who visited the Beloyarsk NPP. We will be glad to see permanent representatives to the IAEA again next year.

The IAEA International Conference for Fast Reactors and Related Fuel Cycles will be held in Yekaterinburg next year in June. Its participants will be able to visit Beloyarsk NPP as well.

Today the Russian Federation has official commitments for construction of more than thirty power units in different countries of the world.

This imposes a particular responsibility on us. We accept it and cooperate with the countries in compliance with all the requirements of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear safety.

Only within the last year the intergovernmental agreement with Egypt concerning construction of the 4th unit of El Dabaa NPP was signed and the general contract with Bangladesh for construction of Ruppur NPP was concluded.

A ceremonial handover of the 1st unit of Kudankulam NPP to the Indian nation took place on 10 August. The 2nd unit of Kudankulam NPP was connected to the Indian power grid on 29 August this year. We are preparing the first concrete pour at the units 3&4 of this NPP.

This year we signed the protocol of final acceptance by Iran of the 1st unit of Bushehr NPP. And on 10 September together with the Iranian colleagues we held a foundation stone ceremony at the construction site of 2nd unit of Bushehr NPP.

I would like to emphasize our work regarding the Iranian nuclear programme. Our approach to the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is beyond the formal framework. We are even assisting the implementation of those measures that stand above our responsibility.

The surplus of low-enriched uranium and nuclear materials were withdrawn from Iran 28 December last year. That made it possible to announce JCPOA Implementation Day on 16 January this year.

I can inform dear colleagues that on 13 and 20 September 38 tons of Iranian heavy water were brought to Russia by two flights. We are working together with the Iranian side on the modification of two cascades of the Fordow plant to produce stable isotopes.

We note a growth of interest in the construction of nuclear research centers in the world. They ensure staff training, development of science and medicine, form the base for implementation of radiation technologies in the industry and agriculture. In March this year we signed an intergovernmental agreement with Bolivia on the construction of the nuclear research and technology center. A similar agreement was signed in June with Nigeria.

In the framework of the present session of the General Conference we are to sign intergovernmental agreements with Tunisia and Cuba.

We come out to our potential partners with a complex proposal. We pay much attention to direct interaction of regulatory bodies concerning building legal infrastructure of nuclear power objects construction.

We cooperate with our partner countries in compliance with the IAEA standards and regulations. We consider that the IAEA role reasonably grows bearing in mind the increasing number of countries launching their national nuclear energy programmes.

Russia stands for the understanding that the IAEA has a leading role in the world nuclear power development. It is important that the IAEA remains a professional, non-politicized, technical organization.

We give the highest priority to nuclear safety. We support the IAEA missions. We implement a special program on OSART missions in Russia. It is scheduled for the period up to 2023 and consists of missions to 6 Russian NPPs plus a corporate OSART mission. We appreciate the results of the IAEA International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems held in April.

Russia participates in the Agency's main projects and activities.

We make our contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund on a regular basis. We highly appreciate the Secretariat work for strengthening the international cooperation in the area of non-power applications of nuclear technologies. The decision to support the IAEA Programme of Action for Cancer Treatment for the next four years has been taken in Russia.

We support the central role of the IAEA in international cooperation on nuclear security issues. We take an active part in the IAEA Safeguards support programme implementation.

We provide regular assistance to the IAEA Director General Mr. Amano who, frankly speaking, manages to retain a balanced professional line in complex circumstances. We intend to support his reelection for the third term.

Dear Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director General,

In conclusion I would like to quote one of the founders of the Soviet nuclear power programme, Academician A.P. Alexandrov: "Nuclear power million times exceeds the chemical in terms of concentration and resources and gives a person new degrees of freedom and opportunities to build his life as he wants".

Our mutual task is to use these opportunities with maximum efficiency. That is why we entirely support the IAEA Director General initiative to change the Agency's motto to "Atoms for peace and development".

I wish the participants of the General Conference successful work and invite you to visit the interactive exposition that we organize in cooperation with the IAEA Secretariat in this building on the occasion of the General Conference jubilee.

Thank you for attention.