



Bangladesh

Statement by
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Hon'ble Minister

Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh
at the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 30 October-01 November 2017

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning/afternoon to you all.

It is an honor and privilege for me to be here, in this conference. I extend my sincere thanks to the organizers, IAEA and OECD. I also extend a very warm and cordial greeting to the host of this conference, Government of the United Arab Emirates. At the same time, I welcome the distinguished participants and those present here.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh enjoys a very cordial relationship with IAEA and its Member States. Bangladesh has full confidence in the pivotal role of IAEA in coordinating international efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety, security and safeguards in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Likewise, Bangladesh is privileged to have a friendly relationship with the people of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has a quickly growing economy and our Government has declared 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' with a view to elevating Bangladesh to a higher middle-income country by 2021 and a front ranking developed nation by 2041 under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, daughter of the father of our nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Her Excellency

Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh acknowledges extended use of atomic energy in various sectors with the support of IAEA that will contribute a lot to strengthen our efforts in achieving the goal of our socio-economic development.

Bangladesh is introducing nuclear energy as a safe, environmentally benign and economically viable source of electrical energy to meet the increasing electricity needs of the country by reducing the supply-demand gap in our energy requirement. It will unlock our development potentials through enhanced productivity and sustained growth leading to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and enable us to face the adverse effect of climate change.

By 2041, the country aims to generate about 10% of electricity from nuclear source. However, our initiative to go for nuclear power generation is fairly recent. Of course, as a late entrant, we have perhaps got the advantage of using the latest technology for ensuring nuclear safety and security. We have started construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the first NPP of the country, under bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Russian Federation.

Excellencies,

As I mentioned, in implementation of Rooppur NPP, we are closely working with IAEA cooperation and some other Member States like Russian Federation and India. I would like to reiterate that in implementing NPP project, Bangladesh is attaching top priority to the issues of radiological protection as well as nuclear safety and security. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority has been regulating and overseeing all safety aspects and physical protection of nuclear materials and installations, waste safety, transport safety of radioactive material as well as emergency preparedness and response. It is worth mentioning that our nuclear power generation programme is solidly anchored at our firm position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is our expectation that through this conference the concerted efforts of the Member States of IAEA will pave the way to establish the role of nuclear power

in meeting future energy demand contributing to sustainable development and mitigating climate change. With that expectation I would like to conclude with a few lines composed by myself-

“We have traversed a lot
Yet, a long way to cover,
And we are to bear in thought-
That, not to stop until the task is over”

The Bengali text of which is-

“এসেছি অনেকটা দূর, আরও পথ বাকি
মাঝে যাবে নাকো থামা, যেন মগে রাখি”

I thank you. Thank you all for your kind attention.