

**Statement by  
His Excellency Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP,  
Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Government of Bangladesh  
at the Ministerial Segment of the  
International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS2020)  
(Vienna, 10-14 February 2020)**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs (Romania and Panama),  
Hon'ble Ministers,  
Director General of IAEA,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

**Good morning.**

**Mr. Chair,**

First of all, I congratulate the Co-Chairs and the members of the Bureau. At the same time, I assure them of my delegation's fullest support in discharging their responsibilities.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Director General Ambassador Rafael Grossi on his appointment and wish him all success in his tenure. My delegation also expresses deep appreciation to Director General Grossi and the conference staff of the IAEA for organizing this Conference and excellent arrangements for this event.

**Mr. Chair,**

We believe this Conference is taking place at a critical time when challenges are high due to existing and emerging nuclear security threats. When some of the major deals concerning nuclear security are falling apart or remaining ineffective, we must strive forward to secure universalization and implementation of all international instruments relevant to nuclear security for creating a sustainable future for the next generations.

As far as Bangladesh is concerned, our firm commitment to general and complete disarmament including nuclear disarmament is anchored in Article 25 of our Constitution and the dream of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to work towards “relaxation of tension, limitation of armaments and the promotion of peaceful coexistence in every part of the world.”

**Mr. Chair,**

Guided by this fundamental principle of our foreign policy, Bangladesh had always remained at the forefront in assuming higher obligations under all major multilateral disarmament treaties including treaties related to nuclear security such as Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW), International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment. In this context, I am pleased to inform the Conference that Bangladesh is the first country in South Asia to ratify NPT.

**Mr. Chair,**

We remain convinced that the ultimate guarantee of international peace and security can be ensured only by the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction including most importantly nuclear weapons. To attain that overarching objective, we signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017 and ratified it in 2019. We are encouraged to see the steady progress in its ratification and look forward to further strengthening its architecture. We are constructively engaged with all to make the 2020 NPT Review Conference, marking 50th anniversary of the Treaty’s entry into force, a success. We hope that the Conference would be able to produce an outcome that would further strengthen the NPT regime globally.

We welcome the convening of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in New York in November last year and hope that it will have a positive impact on the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

We are also looking forward to the State Parties Conference for the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment in 2021 and expecting meaningful outcome.

We must redouble our efforts for the entry into force of the CTBT and for negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). We thank the High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group and the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Nuclear Disarmament Verification for their substantive works in advancing nuclear disarmament.

**Mr. Chair,**

Our nuclear power generation programme is solidly anchored at our firm position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. For Rooppur NPP, , our first ever nuclear power plant, we are closely working with IAEA. For the Plant, Casting of First Concrete of both Unit 1 and Unit 2 were done two years back. Core Catchers for both the units have already been installed. All necessary construction works are going in full swing strictly following the fixed schedule. Rooppur NPP is likely to generate 1200 MW electricity from unit 1 by the year 2023 and another 1200 MW from unit 2 by 2024. This plant will contribute greatly to achieve SDG 7, providing affordable and clean energy for our citizens.

We are implementing the Integrated Work Plan for national infrastructure developed jointly with the IAEA following the guidelines of the Agency and highest IAEA standards. While in the Integrated Work Plan for 2020-2022, jointly developed by IAEA and Bangladesh, a total of 43 activities have been identified, the largest part of the activities relates to Safety, Management, Regulatory Framework, HRD and Nuclear Security.

While fully committed to nuclear security, with the support of IAEA Bangladesh is successfully utilizing nuclear applications for agriculture, food production and safety, human health, industrial usage, environmental protection, and, climate change adaptation & mitigation. The peaceful uses of nuclear applications have contributed to the socio-economic development of our country, particularly in achieving food self-sufficiency and improving human health, as well as our efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 13.

At the national level, Bangladesh has always supported IAEA's mandated role. We highly value the Agency's continued support and it is of high importance that IAEA continues its support to the member states for sustainable national nuclear security regimes, including through guidance development, advisory services, and capacity building.

**Mr. Chair,**

Allow me to say few words about our national development plan. Bangladesh is aspiring to become a higher middle-income country by 2021 and a front-ranking developed nation by 2041 through implementing its Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 under the leadership of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We believe that sustainable nuclear security architecture and peaceful uses of nuclear technology in various sectors will contribute to accelerating our socio-economic development as well as achieving the sustainable development goals by the year 2030.

**Mr. Chair,**

We urge all parties in different flashpoints of the world to return to the time-tested peace track of dialogues and diplomacy transcending their narrow divides and brinkmanship concerning escalatory political rhetoric and possible threat of military actions and use of nuclear weapons.

We consider that the Ministerial Declaration adopted at this Conference will help us fulfil that aspiration in a balanced manner and thus will contribute to our greater global goals as envisioned in Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Thank you all.