IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security

Statement of India

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Excellencies

Co-Presidents of the Conference

Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General, IAEA

Distinguished Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express appreciation to IAEA for hosting this Conference and Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, for his able leadership. This Conference aptly reflects the high importance attached by the international community to the objective of strengthening nuclear security at the global level, to ensure that peaceful applications of nuclear energy remain safe and secure. It is also recognition of the essential and coordinating role that IAEA plays in further bolstering the global efforts towards nuclear security in response to new and emerging challenges and opportunities.

Presidents,

While remaining steadfastly committed to contribute to global efforts to strengthen nuclear security, India firmly believes that nuclear security is fundamentally a national responsibility and has been taking all essential steps. I would like to present updates on the steps that India has taken since the last Conference on Nuclear Security in 2016, to bolster the nuclear security architecture of India.

Going well beyond our commitment outlined in the separation plan as INFCIRC/731, India, recently has placed 4 more indigenous nuclear reactors KAPP-3&4 and RAPP-7&8 under IAEA safeguards, bringing the total number of reactors under IAEA safeguards to 20.

In continuing our endeavour to minimize and eliminate the use of HEU, India has commissioned the 2 MW APSARA-U research reactor with LEU based fuel. We are also in an advanced stage of commissioning a Mo-99 production facility for societal benefit that will utilize LEU based targets. These steps highlight the risk reduction initiatives taken by India for strengthening nuclear security.

Presidents,

As a part of Nuclear Detection Architecture in India, recently two more Emergency Response Centres (ERC) became operational and we now have a total of 25 ERC, widely spread across the country. In addition, 10 more ERCs have been setup which are manned by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). India has also developed "State of the Art" Radiation Monitoring Systems for search, detection and quick qualitative and quantitative assessment of large area radioactive contamination in case of nuclear and radiological emergencies.

India has a robust and dynamic national security regime underlined by a strong legal and regulatory framework. The Indian Atomic Energy Act, 1962 provides the legal frame work for all the provision of security. India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) provides robust regulatory measures for the safety and security of nuclear and radiological material through continuous oversight effected by a large pool of highly trained and specialised manpower dedicated for this purpose. IAEA's peer review mechanisms like the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) have acknowledged the strength of AERB's regulatory practices and capabilities. India is also hosting a follow-up IRRS mission this year with an extended scope to radiation facilities in addition to Nuclear Power Plants.

Presidents,

India fully shares the concern on the gravest threat to global security and peace that is posed by terrorism, including nuclear terrorism. We believe that it is a shared responsibility of all States to ensure the safety and security of nuclear and radiological materials.

India is a party to all the 13 universal instruments accepted as benchmarks for a State's commitments to combat all forms of terrorism including CBRN. Instruments such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment provide a firm basis for translating broader political commitments into legally binding measures. India has also been effectively implementing commitments under UN Security Council Resolutions 1540 and 1373, in its resolve to fight against terrorism and proliferation of WMD. India, in coordination with Germany, UNODA and the UNSC 1540 Commitee, hosted in April 2018, the India-Wiesbaden Conference on "Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)".

Presidents,

India believes that the existing and emerging challenges to nuclear security require collaborative global efforts to assist in national efforts to strengthen nuclear security. I would now like to outline concrete steps taken by India in this regard.

Pursuant to its announcement made at the previous Nuclear Security Conference in 2016, India had organised the "Implementation and Assessment group (IAG)" meeting of GICNT in 2017 with overwhelming participation from various countries. To share best practices on nuclear security, India had also conducted an IPPAS workshop in Dec 2017. I am pleased to announce that India plans to organise a Technical meeting of the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) this year.

India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, GCNEP became operational in April 2017. Since then, GCNEP has conducted over 25 International programs including training courses, workshops, technical meetings, etc., drawing around 400 participants from more than 40 member states. GCNEP had also developed 'State of Art' facilities and laboratories for physical protection systems like access control, advanced surveillance systems etc. We invite member states to take advantage of these facilities for sustainable human resource capacity building. GCNEP has inked MOUs with

10 countries including the USA, France, UK, IAEA etc., for strengthening of global Nuclear Security. GCNEP is also extending technical assistance in capacity building to Bangladesh for their upcoming Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in addition to training on physical protection systems to BAEC personnel.

Presidents,

India is a responsible nuclear power with an impeccable record on nuclear non-proliferation. India has harmonised its national export control list with all the four multilateral export control regimes. India's recent membership of Wassenaar Arrangement in Dec 2017 and Australia Group in Jan 2018 is testimony to the robustness of our national export control system.

Presidents,

Nuclear renaissance and growth of nuclear power programme is vital to meet India's growing demands of energy. Nuclear energy is not only an indispensable part of the clean energy mix to address climate change. India has a present installed capacity of 6780 MW with 22 reactors. The 21 upcoming reactors will add a capacity of 15200 MW. India is committed to

expand peaceful applications of nuclear energy, in both power and non-power applications, while ensuring the security of nuclear and radiological materials. This will further strengthen our efforts in combating climate change and achieving the sustainable development goals.

I wish this conference all the success. We hope that the outcome of this meeting will reinforce emphasis on the national actions and the international cooperation in the nuclear security and will lay a road map for strengthening and sustaining activities in response to ever evolving complex and dynamic threats of nuclear terrorism.

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