

64th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Statement Delivered by
Resident Representative of Nepal to the IAEA
H.E. Mr. Prakash Kumar Suvedi
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Mr. President
Director General
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, let me congratulate you on your election to the chair of this General Conference. I wish for the successful completion of this Conference under your able leadership. I would also like to recall that this is the first General Conference under the leadership of Director General Rafael Grossi. I would also like to appreciate the excellent works done by the Secretariat in arranging this General Conference, despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I express my solidarity with all the nations fighting COVID-19 pandemic. I extend my sincere condolences to the family of all who lost their life during pandemic. I hope we will overcome this soon with our collective efforts.

As a party or signatory to all disarmament related international treaties/conventions, including as a signatory to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Nepal has always been expressing its unwavering commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, nuclear non-proliferation, and nuclear disarmament. Nepal believes that the nuclear science and technology should be used only for the peaceful purposes within the safeguards' framework of IAEA.

Nepal promulgated a law governing the Utilization and Regulation of Radioactive Materials in June 2020. This legislation further corroborates our commitment to the norms espoused by the Agency.

Nepal has been a beneficiary of IAEA's technical cooperation since 2012. The area of technical cooperation includes building of national infrastructure for radiation safety, developing radiation health service infrastructure, increasing animal

productivity and trans-boundary diseases control, improving crop yield for food security, education in nuclear physics and chemistry, and non-destructive testing among others. We hope that these engagements increase in coming days.

Before I conclude, let me reiterate Nepal's appreciation to the Agency' continuation of its safeguards related works even during the pandemic. I also thank the Agency for its support in providing vital equipment including test kits to fight this pandemic and appreciate Director General Grossi's leadership.

Nepal is keenly and actively following the consultations on a new initiative entitled 'Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action' or ZODIAC project. We appreciate that the consultations have contributed to enhance the understanding of the concerns of the member states as well as that of the Agency. We look forward to working closely with the Agency and other member states within the framework of this project in order to strengthen the ability to prepare for and respond to any zoonotic disease threats and outbreaks.

Thank you