

Statement by the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation
**Sixty-fourth Annual General Conference of the International Atomic
Energy Agency, September 2020**

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

Excellency Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, I congratulate you and other officers on election at the 64th Session of the IAEA General Conference and assure you of Pakistan's full support and cooperation.

Your Excellency,

Pakistan continues to utilize the enormous potential of nuclear science and technology for the socio-economic development and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We believe that IAEA's role in promoting peaceful uses of Nuclear Technology is extremely important.

Pakistan is benefitting from nuclear technology applications in diverse areas of power generation, health, agriculture, industry, environment and basic sciences. For Pakistan, pursuit of nuclear power generation and expansion of its share in the national energy mix is been driven by the fact that we remain one of the ten most vulnerable country to the impact of climate change. We are pursuing a comprehensive nuclear power vision, under this five nuclear power plants (NPPs) are in operation. One 1,100 MWe Nuclear Power Plant in Karachi is nearing completion and is expected to be connected to the grid by the end of this year, to be followed by another of the same size later in 2021. Recently, one of our NPP achieved the milestone of continuous safe operation for over 400 days. To achieve its target of clean and reliable energy, Pakistan calls for removal of barriers and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear technology. In the global challenge of Climate Change, nuclear power is a promising option for energy production.

In the domain of cancer treatment, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission's eighteen Nuclear Medical Centers serve more than one million patients each year. Two more are under construction. With a view to further strengthening the capacity of these centres, Pakistan is working with the Agency

for a comprehensive Technical Cooperation project focused on cancer treatment in the next TC cycle.

Your Excellency,

Pakistan is benefiting immensely from the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme. The same benefits are available to all member states. Pakistan is willing to share its positive experience of working with the agency and help other member States to develop comprehensive TC projects. The Agency is requested to ensure the implementation of ongoing TC projects despite the disruptive impact of the COVID-19. We also underscore the continued importance of sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme.

Your Excellency

The Agency's response to COVID-19 pandemic by providing assistance to Member States is highly appreciated. A reminder that nuclear-derived diagnostic techniques have a key role in dealing with emerging global public health challenges. Pakistan welcomes Director General Rafael Grossi's ZODIAC initiative; this will help the Agency to play a more effective role in health. Pakistan looks forward to contributing to the success of this initiative through its national laboratories which are participating in the national effort to control COVID-19. Pakistan will also be making a modest financial contribution to this initiative.

Your Excellency

Pakistan's commitment to the IAEA Safeguards is demonstrated by the fact that we have placed all our nuclear power plants and research reactors under the IAEA Safeguards. During the most challenging days of COVID-19 pandemic, uninterrupted implementation of safeguards was ensured.

Your Excellency

I am happy to share that as a commitment to women empowerment, Pakistan is offering fellowships at the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme launched by DG IAEA. PIEAS is one of Pakistan's leading universities in nuclear

technology and is presently designated as an IAEA Collaboration Centre and would like member States to accrue benefits from the Centre.

Pakistan emphasizes the goal of promoting diversity in the Agency's workforce with equitable and merit based representation of developing countries.

Your Excellency,

Pakistan considers nuclear security as a National responsibility. We have developed a comprehensive nuclear safety and security regime, which is regularly reviewed and updated in light of the IAEA guidance documents and international best practices. Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) enjoys complete independence as a nuclear regulator. We are sharing our expertise with other developing countries under the auspices of the IAEA. With the help of the Agency regulations relating to nuclear safety and security are continuously been up-dated and new regulations formulated. In 2019, two new regulations were promulgated.

Your Excellency, in response to recent tragedy in Lebanon, Pakistan has offered its RAG teams to participate in monitoring of the environment for radiation.

In conclusion, let me acknowledge the mutually beneficial cooperation that Pakistan enjoys with the Agency. We look forward to continuing and expanding this cooperation in the years to come.

I thank you, Your Excellency.