

Statement of the ROSATOM Director General A. Likhachev on the occasion of the 64th IAEA General Conference

Distinguished Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you on your election!

Distinguished colleagues, Director General!

This year the General Conference is held in an unusual format determined by the epidemiological situation in the world. Still, I am sure that the work of the conference will be just as successful and efficient as in the previous years, despite the pandemic restrictions.

The new coronavirus infection has become a challenge for the whole world. Faced with a developing crisis, nuclear power has yet again demonstrated its stability, environmental sustainability, safety and cost-effectiveness.

It is essential that during this period of crisis the Agency, under the leadership of its Director General, Mr. Rafael Grossi, has demonstrated that it is an efficient and highly demanded international organisation. Building on its unique expertise, the Agency has promptly arranged supplies of the state-of-the-art coronavirus diagnostic equipment to the countries that needed it most. Russia has not stayed behind either and provided financial support to the IAEA.

Despite the pandemic, the Agency has never ceased its work. Distance communication mechanisms have been set up, and a whole range of important events took place. The Agency continues to implement its statutory objectives, both in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear technologies, and in verifying the fulfilment of non-proliferation obligations.

Russia has been consistent in supporting the IAEA activities aimed at enhancing the NPT regime.

Our standpoint is that any contentious situations should be resolved through dialogue. We urge all the concerned parties to put maximum efforts into stabilizing the situation around the JCPOA.

Distinguished colleagues!

The nuclear industry in Russia has also been faced with the coronavirus challenge. We are passing this test with dignity: none of our construction sites has halted work in the course of the epidemic. Not in our country, not abroad, where more than 20 power units are in active phase of implementation.

Power Unit 2 of Leningrad NPP-2 with the VVER-1200 reactor reached criticality last August. The turbine start-up at this Power Plant will take place this month. And in October the Unit will be generating its first kilowatts. The construction of two Power Units at the site of Kursk NPP-2 with the innovative VVER-TOI design is also in progress.

Using this opportunity, I congratulate our Belarusian partners on the commencement of the start-up stage of Ostrovets NPP with VVER-1200 Generation 3+ reactor that took place last August.

Commissioning the world's first of a kind Floating NPP with two smaller-capacity reactors for commercial operation in Pevek in May 2020 became a real milestone event. Since June, it has been supplying electric power, as well as heat, to the northern region of our country. The Floating NPP demonstrates unique opportunities of using floating power units in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

The construction of smaller reactors could mark the start of a new era in the world nuclear industry in the coming years. In this context, I suggest conducting, under the auspices of the IAEA, an update of the existing international rules and regulations related to smaller nuclear power plants. The impact of smaller capacity generation was first explored in the framework of the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles - INPRO, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman, colleagues!

The current IAEA General Conference falls on the year that is special for us. This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Russian nuclear industry.

Throughout all these years, we have been working to address global challenges. Rosatom's mission reads "High technologies at the service of people". Our job is to improve people's life standards, and, ultimately, to contribute to the sustainable

development of humankind. We build NPPs in Russia and globally, we develop non-power sectors and nuclear science, we help other countries master high technologies and create the nuclear infrastructure.

New tasks lie ahead. A comprehensive Nuclear Science and Technology Development Programme has been designed in Russia; it is one of the nation-wide projects of our country. The President of the Russian Federation has already signed the respective decree about it. Two-component nuclear power engineering, closed fuel cycle, small- and medium-capacity NPPs, plasma technologies and thermonuclear fusion are our mid-term priorities.

I am confident that if we stay committed to the principles of partnership, professionalism, and trust, if we prevent politicization of the nuclear industry, then we will handle all the current and future challenges. The key prerequisite for this work is uniting efforts of all the interested parties in various formats of mutually beneficial cooperation, with the IAEA playing the central role.

On my part, on behalf and upon the instructions of the national leadership of my country I reiterate that Russia will continue to support the IAEA in all the domains.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!