

**Statement Delivered by Dr. Illa Mainali, Deputy Resident
Representative of Nepal to the IAEA at the 65th General Conference of
the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, 20-24 September 2021**

**Mr. President,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 65th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

My delegation extends profound appreciation to the Director-General, Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi, for the comprehensive report and for his valuable work despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. President,

1. Nepal appreciates the efforts and tremendous work done by IAEA towards achieving its mission of the safe, secure and peaceful application of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Nepal is a party or signatory to major disarmament-related international treaties or conventions. It has always been committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, nuclear non-proliferation, and nuclear disarmament. Nepal believes that nuclear science and technology should be used only for peaceful purposes within the Safeguards' Framework of IAEA.
3. In compliance with the IAEA Framework, Nepal also promulgated a law governing the Utilization and Regulation of Radioactive Materials in 2020. This legislation confirms our commitment to the norms set by IAEA. We acknowledge the technical cooperation that IAEA has been providing to Nepal via different projects since 2012.

4. In fact, Technical Cooperation plays a central role in the development of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes including healthcare capacity development cooperation in the countries like ours where the application of nuclear technology is limited.
5. We also support to the Agency's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project, which is an important tool in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic and beyond. We look forward to working closely with IAEA in this project which will help to strengthen the ability to prepare for, and respond to, any zoonotic diseases and outbreaks.
6. Nepal is ready to collaborate with IAEA to a higher level including potential future cooperation in the areas of health, agriculture and livestock, non-destructive testing to verify the integrity of key infrastructure and cultural heritage sites, education, and research, human resource development and capacity building, equipment and technology transfer, nuclear safety, regulatory framework and further strengthening of safeguard regime.
7. In conclusion, let me reiterate Nepal's commitment to supporting the activities of IAEA for a better world through peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We look forward to engaging constructively for fruitful discussions during the deliberation of the Conference and wish for its successful completion.

Thank you!