

Statement by
His Excellency Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Mr. President,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the 66th General Conference of IAEA. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

At the same time, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for Director General Ambassador Grossi and the Agency, for the efforts to successfully continue Agency's mandated work, when the world is plagued by multiple complex and multi-dimensional challenges like climate change, conflict, energy and food crisis, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh acknowledges IAEA's role as a reliable partner for the Member States, whether in pandemic response, performing safeguard verifications, or in helping developing nations to attain the SDGs through the safe, secure, and peaceful application of nuclear technology. Our Honourable Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, her government, as well as the people of Bangladesh highly appreciate our ever-growing engagement with IAEA, which is critical for our sustainable growth and prosperity.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh strongly supports international cooperation and the mutual sharing of experience within the framework of the IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC). Through the TC programme, the Agency has been assisting Bangladesh in human resource development and capacity building for introduction, development and making peaceful use of nuclear techniques in various sectors of

the country such as Health, Livestock, Agriculture, Industry, Water Management etc., which is contributing to our socio-economic development.

Mr. President,

We commend the Agency for its tireless efforts to support Member States in implementing the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. IAEA has demonstrated its indispensable role in implementing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - a cornerstone of international peace and security architecture, including its review process.

Mr. President,

Nuclear energy plays an integral role in low-carbon energy transitions. Bangladesh considers nuclear energy as an important component of future energy generation mix. Presently, Bangladesh is in an active phase of construction of two power units of VVER-1200 technology at Rooppur based on the highest international and IAEA standards. The Reactor Pressure Vessel of unit-1 is already in its design position and that of unit-2 is going to be placed into its design position in October 2022. Rooppur NPP is moving fast towards its final shape.

At this point of time, I would like to reiterate Bangladesh's commitment to work closely with the Agency to ensure the highest standards in nuclear safety, security and safeguards to promote peaceful use of nuclear technology. For meeting the maximum safety and security requirements in Rooppur NPP, Bangladesh is creating appropriate safety, security and safeguards infrastructure in the light of necessary requirements. In the year 2022, we received ISSAS mission, and conducted IAEA IRRS preparatory meeting and IAEA IPPAS preparatory meeting. We are working with the Agency to receive critical peer reviews and new IAEA advisory missions in Bangladesh in order to ensure responsible and timely completion of the Rooppur NPP.

Mr. President,

Lastly, I reiterate Bangladesh's firm support to the mandate and activities of the Agency for a better world through peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

I thank you, Mr. President.