

Distinguished Mr. Director General of the IAEA,
Distinguished heads of the national delegations,
Dear participants of the conference!

Politicization of international organizations, which has sharply increased over the past six months, is a serious challenge not only for the world's nuclear power industry, but also for the entire global energy sector. It has become commonplace for a number of countries to accuse Russia of violating just about every norm of the international law, which of course is not consistent with reality. I would like to emphasize that the IAEA remains within its professional mandate in this difficult situation. We expect this approach to be maintained in the future.

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Dear colleagues!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We can now see two trends in the global energy sector. The first trend is unstable fuel markets, volatile prices for hydrocarbon energy sources and disrupted transport logistics. The second trend is the growing demand of society for the power generation that is in compliance with the sustainable development principles.

In these circumstances the need for nuclear energy – the only basic generation source which is both reliable and low-carbon – can only increase. That said, we consider nuclear and renewable energy sources as reinforcing one another, and in no way mutually exclusive.

The IAEA has been giving increasing attention to the climate agenda in recent years. We think that this vector is right. We have supported the creation of the Agency's thematic pavilion at the UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt (COP-27). We also welcome the IAEA's decision to hold the Second International Conference on Climate Change in the coming year.

At present the international community is ever closer to the global consensus in relation to the "green" atom. I would like to emphasize the Agency's contribution to the nuclear technology potential being recognized by the global community in implementing the Paris Summit decisions. Russia is taking an active part in this work under the leadership of the IAEA.

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

The issues of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RW) management are often perceived as the main problem of the nuclear energy that allegedly cannot be solved. We have the answer to these issues.

For several years already we have been developing the track of the ‘Balanced Nuclear Fuel Cycle’. Its concept is to use Russian fast neutron reactors in order to close the nuclear fuel cycle. This approach will enable us to reduce by dozens of times the amount and radioactivity of waste subject to disposal.

We are confident that our suggested solution to the long-term SNF and RW radiotoxicity problem is an essential step towards global recognition of nuclear power as a green energy source.

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Modern nuclear energy is not only about High-Power Nuclear Power Plants. The demand for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) is growing for power supply of remote areas, island states or particular industrial projects, for example, in mining mineral resources.

We have practical experience in this area, and we are ready to share it. The world's one of a kind implemented project of a Floating Nuclear Power Plant "Akademik Lomonosov" supplies electric power to the closed power grid of the Chukotka Peninsula, and provides heat for the city of Pevek. Our modernized Floating Power Units that we are building to explore the Baimskaya Ore Zone in Chukotka represent the evolution of Floating SMRs. We have proceeded to practical implementation of the Inland SMR project in Yakutia. Shelf-M Micro-Reactor with the capacity of up to 10 MW, basically a capsule, which can be delivered to the required location and synchronized with the local grid, is yet another area of our activities.

We note that the IAEA is actively working on the integration of the Small Modular Reactor technologies into the existing standards and guidance of the Agency.

Dear participants of the conference!

Dear Director General!

Climate change and energy crisis have resulted in a situation where more and more countries consider nuclear power as the solution to their energy security problems. For the second year in a row, the Agency has reviewed upward its forecast with regard to nuclear power generation by 2050.

The new, or rather well forgotten old attitude towards nuclear power as the future of the energy sector, is on everybody's lips today again. What has been realized is that there could be no stable power grid that is based exclusively on variable energy sources. Mankind acknowledges and accepts that the climatic goals and zero-carbon future – net zero – cannot be achieved without nuclear. In this regard, I would like to remind the words Vladimir Vernadsky, my great compatriot, pronounced exactly 100 years ago: "Nuclear energy is the source of power that will enable people to arrange their lives as they wish".

Thank you.