

Statement by  
**H. E. Mr. Asad Alam Siam**  
Ambassador and Resident Representative of Bangladesh  
at the 68th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference  
Vienna, 16-20 September 2024

**Mr. President,**

Let me begin by conveying our deepest condolence to the friendly people of Austria for the loss of lives and resources due to the devastating flood.

I congratulate you, **Mr. President**, on your election as the President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. My delegation assures you of our full support and cooperation.

We also extend our appreciation to Director General Grossi and his team for their leadership, commitment and dedication to the Agency's work for advancing the global collaboration on nuclear energy.

**Mr. President,**

Bangladesh recognizes the central role of the IAEA in promoting international cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy as well as strengthening disarmament and the non-proliferation regime.

We also recognize the central role of the Agency in assisting Member States to fulfil their obligations for nuclear safety, security and safeguards. It is very important to remember that strengthening nuclear security, safety and safeguards should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities or member states' rights to peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

**Mr. President,**

As we stand at the cusp of a new era marked by unprecedented challenges and opportunities, as the countries grapple with the climate crisis coupled with growing energy, water, and food security concerns, we acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the IAEA to global peace, security, and prosperity.

Bangladesh recognizes the Agency's central role in supporting Member States' efforts to apply nuclear science and technology in their development priorities, including the SDGs, through technical cooperation programmes, in food and agriculture, health and nutrition, safety and security, industrial applications, energy, and other peaceful uses.

In this context, we commend the Agency's all relevant initiatives, notably Atoms4Food, Atoms4NetZero, Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics, GloWAL, COMPASS, Together for More Women in Nuclear, SMR Platform and NHSI.

**Mr. President,**

Bangladesh, like many other developing nations, faces significant challenges in meeting its growing energy needs while simultaneously addressing climate change, water and food security issues.

We, therefore, deeply appreciate the Agency's support through plant mutation breeding, isotope hydrology and related techniques to improve crops, soil and water management which have enabled our country to attain a sustainable food supply despite its population growth and increasingly harsh climatic conditions.

The use of nuclear technology in health sector in Bangladesh has also been growing very fast. Currently a total 23 nuclear medicine and 24 radiotherapy facilities are providing diagnosis and quality treatment to the cancer patients in Bangladesh.

Agency's TC projects had been very crucial for Bangladesh to reap the benefits of the Nuclear Science and Technology. Over the last five decades, we collaborated with the Agency in many TC programmes in the areas of agriculture, health, hydrology, capacity building, nuclear radiation safety. In this journey together, we deeply benefited from the Agency.

At present, we have 6 (six) Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects in the field of health care, environment, nuclear energy, and food safety, which are in the implementation phase. We have also finalized the 2024 – 2032 Country Programme Framework (CPF) with the Agency, which will be signed later this year.

**Mr. President,**

As a climate front line country, Bangladesh is deeply committed to embrace green component in our energy portfolio to combat climate change and ensure energy security. Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is one such initiative.

In October last year, the first fresh nuclear fuel was delivered to the plant site and we are going ahead at full pace towards successful commissioning of our 1st reactor soon. We consider the Agency as a key partner in our journey towards clean energy.

Bangladesh appreciates the Agency's continuous assistance in providing us with peer review and advisory services, including INIR Phase 1 and 2, SEED, and IRRS, to assess the status of nuclear power infrastructure development in Bangladesh.

We also hope to receive the Agency's Pre-OSART, IPPAS, EPREV and INIR Phase 3 missions soon. We also request the Agency to continue to provide training and education to support our national nuclear capacity-building and knowledge management.

In conclusion, let me seize this opportunity to reaffirm Bangladesh's collective commitment to harness the peaceful potential of nuclear energy for the benefit of humanity, while ensuring the highest standards of safety, security, and safeguards at home and globally in cooperation with

the IAEA and other international partners. We will continue to uphold the Agency's global mandate regarding this. Together, we can build a safer, more sustainable future for generations to come through the peaceful and safe uses of nuclear energy.

With these remarks, I wish the General Conference all the success.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**