

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Eslami
Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and President of the Atomic
Energy Organization of Iran
at the Sixty-Eight General Conference of the IAEA
16 September, 2024- Vienna

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

Dear Mr. President;

Mr. Director General;

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as the president of this important gathering. Also, I would like to express my pleasure for participating in the sixty-eighth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency and assure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation.

I would like to reiterate that the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and, H.E. President Pezeshkian, are fully committed to expanding balanced and comprehensive professional relations at the international level.

Distinguished Colleagues,

At present, the world is facing serious and concerning challenges, including the atrocities of the Israeli regime in Palestine.

The Israeli regime has slaughtered so far over 41 thousand civilians, mainly innocent women and children, and has wounded about one hundred thousand others. The Israeli

regime continues its war crimes and genocide shamelessly, under the protection of the United States and certain countries.

We cannot ignore the ongoing genocide of innocent people whose lands have been occupied for more than seven decades, in flagrant violation of various UN Resolutions, with the full support of some countries. The UN apparatus is being continuously challenged due to the inaction in this regard by the relevant authorities responsible for maintaining peace and security.

In this respect, the self-proclaimed representatives of the international community shall be held accountable.

This regime, through assassinating Iranian scientists, various acts of sabotage, and terrorist operations, leads an extensive negative propaganda against Iran's peaceful nuclear program. By spreading false information about Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, The Israeli regime seeks to divert public attention from its crimes and atrocities.

Excellencies.

Nuclear disarmament is the highest priority of international community and it is essential that nuclear weapon States fulfill their obligations under Article VI of the NPT.

Dear Delegations;

Today, the realization of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East has become more important than ever. Only during the past one year, on several occasions the authorities of the child-killing apartheid regime threatened to use nuclear weapons against the oppressed people of Gaza as well as the great nation of Iran.

The Israeli regime refusal to join the NPT and put its nuclear facilities under the Agency's Safeguards poses a threat to international peace and security.

Distinguished Colleagues,

In this part of my speech, I would like to address one of the most significant global challenges i.e. Climate Change and Global Warming.

Global challenges require global solutions; to this end it is essential to transfer modern technologies and equipment without discrimination, in particular to the developing countries. In this direction, the use of clean energy, in particular nuclear energy as a reliable base-load power source plays an important role.

In this regard, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in accordance with its Statute, is obligated to act as a facilitator and supporter for the access of all Member States to the needed technology and equipment, without any discrimination.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, for its part, is determined to increase the share of nuclear power in its energy portfolio to 20,000 megawatts by 2040, in line with its Comprehensive Strategic Document for the Development of the Nuclear Industry for a 20-year horizon.

Dear Colleagues;

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you the esteemed colleagues that this year coincides with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and for this purpose the 30th National Nuclear Conference of Iran and the first International Nuclear Conference was held in May 2024 in the beautiful and historical city of Isfahan with the participation of H.E. Rafael Grossi, the honorable Director General of the Agency, and his accompanying delegation.

The participants of this event from different countries of the world witnessed the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields of peaceful nuclear energy. These achievements have been realized under circumstances where the country has been subjected to the most severe oppressive and unilateral sanctions ever.

I am honored to announce that some of these achievements are being presented in the side event and exhibition of this Conference. Through this podium, we announce our readiness to cooperate with other countries in these fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Agency continues in an honest and extensive manner. The number of the Agency's designated inspectors in Iran is incomparable to any other Member States. More than one fifth of all inspections carried out by the Agency across the world in 2023 took place in Iran over our nuclear facilities, while Iran's nuclear facilities constitute only three percent of the total number of nuclear facilities worldwide.

The inherent and sovereign right of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the de-designation of the Agency inspectors, has been exercised under the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement provisions. Insistence and pressure on Iran in this regard mean ignoring the sovereign rights of States and might set an unjustified precedent, which is, therefore, unacceptable.

Furthermore, I would like to reiterate that Iran's JCPOA related voluntary measures were implemented in exchange for the lifting of unjust and illegal sanctions. What is being pursued today through political pressure is forcing Iran to implement JCPOA measures without considering the sanctions-lifting commitments of the other sides. The JCPOA shall not be implemented at the expense of only one participant.

The Agency's verification and monitoring activities on the manufacturing and production of non-nuclear items in Iran have been foreseen only within the JCPOA context. Following the unilateral unlawful withdrawal of the United States and the significant non-performance of E3/EU, Iran ceased performing those JCPOA measures beyond its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, in exercising its right under

paragraphs 26 and 36 of the JCPOA and the Iranian parliament law entitled "Strategic Action Plan to Removal of Sanctions and Protect Iranian Nation's Interests".

This Conference is being held at a time when we are witnessing serious crises in international arena. The Agency shall play its role in reducing tensions and increasing interaction and cooperation to improve the quality of life of all people across the world, in accordance with its Statute.

It is expected that all Member States act with utmost responsibility and in good faith. For this, Iran is prepared to engage with all Member States to achieve this precious goal.

Dear Colleagues;

Mr. President

Mr. Director General

I wish you success.