

Dear Mr. Chairperson!

Dear participants of the General Conference!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great honor for me to speak on behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 68th session of General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Agency for the support provided to our country in developing nuclear technologies and strengthening the nuclear safety.

Uzbekistan intends to further reinforce nuclear security measures and actively participates in international efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Our country is a convinced and consistent supporter of this process and fulfills its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and IAEA on the Application of Safeguards.

Since the establishment of cooperation, Uzbekistan has done a great deal of work to improve radiation and nuclear safety in the country and the Central Asia region as a whole.

In particular, Uzbekistan has established and is operating State system of accounting and control of nuclear materials in accordance with international requirements. Modern nuclear technologies are being introduced into various sectors of the national economy and hundreds of specialists from various organizations are improving their qualifications.

Every year, the partnership between Uzbekistan and the IAEA is strengthening and becoming a solid foundation for progressive and effective cooperation. The successful implementation of INIR, SEED and ImPACT missions, as well as the comprehensive work plan of cooperation in the sphere of development of nuclear infrastructure of Uzbekistan is a vivid confirmation of this.

We would also like to assure you of our determination to further expand and strengthen our cooperation in the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy.

Recently, our government adopted a decision on the construction of a Small Nuclear Power Plants. This event marks a new stage in the development of our nuclear industry, and we are grateful to the IAEA for its readiness to provide comprehensive support in the realization of this project. We see in this project

not only a source of clean energy, but also a powerful motivation for the development of Uzbekistan's scientific and technical potential.

Uzbekistan considers technical cooperation within the framework of the IAEA as an effective instrument of international collaboration in the peaceful use of atomic energy. Cooperation in this field covers many important areas. In particular, we have reached agreement on the implementation of the IAEA's **Rays of Hope initiative**, which is aimed at the use of nuclear techniques in medicine and the treatment of cancer.

We are grateful to the Agency for its support in this direction, and we are ready to deepen our cooperation in the field of nuclear medicine.

I would like to note with satisfaction the opening of the new Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center for Oncology and Radiology in Tashkent equipped with the most modern medical equipment at the end of August this year.

At present, more than 10 projects are being successfully implemented within the framework of IAEA's technical cooperation, including four national projects focused on building the country's nuclear energy infrastructure, strengthening its human resources potential, modernizing nuclear medicine facilities, and completing a cycle of work on strengthening the safety of the research reactor at the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

We highly appreciate the IAEA's assistance in improving the qualifications of our specialists in the field of nuclear knowledge and in conducting joint research work. These efforts are key to the safe and effective use of nuclear technology in our country.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank the International Atomic Energy Agency for close cooperation. We also assure Uzbekistan's readiness to further strengthen our partnership. We are convinced that together we will be able to successfully realize all the goals set and make a significant contribution to sustainable development and global nuclear safety.

Thank you for your attention!