59th IAEA General Conference, 14-18 September, 2015

Statement by the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my pleasure to congratulate you your Excellency Mr. Filippo Formica Permanent Representative of Italy, on your election as President of the 59th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Vice Presidents, and other elected officers. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my Delegation. Under your able leadership and wisdom, I firmly believe that this Conference will accomplish all the tasks put before it.

2. I take this opportunity to welcome Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, and Turkmenistan as new members of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I am confident that their membership will be beneficial for them, and they will contribute to the success of the Agency's activities in the years ahead.

3. I also wish to convey my sincere appreciation to Director General, IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano, for his leading role in steering the Agency in accordance with its Statute.

Mr. President,

4. The IAEA has a unique role as the world's focal point for promoting the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy in a manner that is safe, and beneficial. It is for this reason that an increasing number of countries are wishing to embark on a nuclear power program. This expansion however, poses a variety of challenges to the Agency in terms of application of its resources, as most of the countries wishing to start their Nuclear Programme look towards the IAEA for guidance and support. Pakistan

knows the importance of such interaction with the IAEA, as over the years it has benefitted immensely from the expertise made available by the Agency in the form of the Technical Cooperation Programme, Expert Missions; Operational Safety Review Teams (OSART) and Assessment of Safety Significant Event Teams (ASSET) Missions.

5. Having started at about the same time, the IAEA and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission can be said to be growing together. Pakistan has enjoyed a very productive and mutually beneficial relationship with the IAEA. Guided by the past interaction, Pakistan remains committed to synergizing its efforts with those of the Agency for harnessing the vast potential of nuclear technology.

Mr. President

6. One of the greatest challenges faced by humanity is global warming and the associated climate change. Nuclear power is very attractive as it does not produce greenhouse gases. Not only that, nuclear technology can offers substantial contribution in the study and mitigation of climate change. The IAEA may aggressively promote the development and use of nuclear techniques in climate change analysis and mitigation. In this regard, the Technical Cooperation Programme can be strengthened.

7. Given our limited conventional energy resources the most significant aspect of our use of nuclear technology is the nuclear power programme, which started when Pakistan set up KANUPP, its first nuclear power plant in Karachi in 1972. KANUPP has continued to function for more than four decades even though the vender support for the plant was withdrawn very early in its life. The safe and successful operation of KANUPP gave Pakistan the confidence to further pursue and advance the nuclear power option to cope with the country's severe electric power shortage.

8. The People's Republic of China under a long term cooperation agreement between the two countries in 2000, provided two 325 MWe each Chashma Nuclear Power Plants, units C-1 and C-2. The performance and economics of these units won support for the construction of two more units C-3 and C-4 in this series which are now under construction at the same site.

9. In November 2013, Pakistan advanced forward with the ground-breaking ceremony of two larger nuclear power plants K-2, K-3 of 1100 MWe each. The plants are in the vicinity of KANUPP, Karachi. On 20 August 2015, the first concrete pour of the K-2 plant took place. With the completion of these two units, ~~the~~ nuclear power will begin to make a sizeable contribution to electricity generation in the country. Pakistan envisages a nuclear power generation capacity of 40,000 MWe under its Nuclear Energy Vision-2050.

10. Pakistan is firmly committed to keep all its current and future nuclear power plants under IAEA safeguards. As the nuclear power generation program is expanding, Pakistan is also emphasizing safety and security of nuclear installations. The new plants being acquired for the Karachi site are Generation III plants with enhanced safety features. Pakistan also initiated the "Fukushima Response Action Plan (FRAP)" soon after the Fukushima incident to re-assess and upgrade the safety of our nuclear power plants. Immediate and mid-term actions have already been taken and implemented.

11. To conduct specialized training courses in physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, material control and accounting, personnel reliability, transport security and other security-related areas we have also established the Pakistan Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Security (PCENS). A regional training course on

security of radioactive sources was held in November, 2014 in coordination with IAEA.

12. The Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences, a premier institute for education and training in nuclear Science and technology in Pakistan, which is rated as the number one university in the country, also offers special courses on nuclear security and physical protection as part of curriculum on nuclear engineering program. Pakistan offers these facilities as a regional and international hub for training.

13. The PAEC also interacts with the IAEA, WANO and COG to enhance safety of our NPPs. WANO Expert Missions regularly visit Pakistan to assess and suggest various safety measures for power plants. Recently, a four member team from WANO visited Pakistan for the C-3 Pre Start up Peer Review Mission at the C-3 site at Chashma. More WANO expert missions are planned.

14. In March, 2015 a Workshop on "Capability in the Review/Assessment and Validation of Preventive & Mitigative Symptoms Based Emergency Operating Procedures (SEOPs) and Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs) for NPPs" was held in Islamabad. The full OSART mission for C-1 by IAEA is also expected later this year or earlier next year.

15. Pakistan has always focused on developing a strong safety and regulatory infrastructure. The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) set up in 2001, enjoys complete autonomy from the operators. PNRA, which has based its regulations on the IAEA safety standards, also offers itself for independent peer reviews and receives such Missions from IAEA from time to time. PNRA has very close links with the IAEA, both as a recipient and as a contributor.

16. PNRA has also established a National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS) for facilitating national and regional training courses on nuclear security. The Institute is equipped with the state-of-the-art laboratories for training in nuclear radiation safety, nuclear security and physical protection.

17. Pakistan is a consistent supporter of the international endeavours for enhancement of nuclear security. In this respect, Pakistan has participated in all Nuclear Security Summits (NSS) since 2010 at the highest governmental level. We commend the central role of the IAEA in efforts for generating high-level commitments to foster national nuclear security culture to coordinate and synergize the work of the international community.

Mr. President

18. Besides nuclear power, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has made other important contributions to the socio-economic sector by bringing peaceful application of nuclear technology to our people. The PAEC is currently providing vital service to the nation through its 18 oncology medical hospitals where about 80% cancer patients in the country are treated each year. The PAEC plans to further expand its services to the public by setting up more nuclear medical centres.

19. In December, 2013 an impact-Integrated Mission on Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy came to Pakistan and visited several nuclear medical hospitals in the public and private sectors in different cities. We now have received the recommendations of the Mission which are being implemented.

20. Our four agriculture and biotechnology centres are also making valuable contributions to the agriculture and livestock sectors of the country.

21. PAEC has also developed a very sound infrastructure for addressing various problems related to water resource management using isotopes techniques.

22. We are also taking part in the IAEA's programme of inter-calibration of radiation standards and also providing expert and analytical services in this field to IAEA member states in the region.

    Besides, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences PIEAS, we have a network of in-house educational and training institutions that encompass all major nuclear science & technology and nuclear power, such as **the** Karachi Institute of Power Engineering (KINPOE) at KANUPP, and Chasnupp Center for Nuclear Training, CHASCENT at Chashma. Besides meeting the needs of our own programme, these institutes welcome participants from other IAEA member states.

23. At this point, Mr. President, I must appreciate the support that the IAEA has provided to Pakistan through expert services, equipment and human resource development in helping us to establish and improve facilities in many diverse areas including nuclear radiation, nuclear safety, nuclear security, application of nuclear technology in agriculture, medicine, industry and nuclear energy. This spirit of mutual cooperation has been demonstrated by the visits of many dignitaries and officials of the IAEA. During the last four years, four Deputy Director Generals of the IAEA have visited Islamabad, and especially important was the visit of the IAEA Director General, H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano last year.

24. Mr. President, Pakistan has the experience, trained manpower, and facilities to become a provider of nuclear technology for peaceful purpose in addition to its being its recipient. We aim to play our part at the international level as a mainstream partner for non-proliferation with a full membership of export control regimes, particularly the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Pakistan considers this to be a mutually beneficial proposition for the international community and as well as for itself.

25. In conclusion, I would once again express my appreciation for the positive role the IAEA is playing in promoting the peaceful application of nuclear technology around the world. Pakistan has always had a very productive cooperation with the IAEA over decades. Pakistan has benefitted immensely from this cooperation and we have, on our part, made a humble contribution towards the Agency's activities by sharing our experience, providing expert services particularly in the areas of energy planning, water management, nuclear site studies and development of regulatory infrastructure. With a sizeable nuclear programme, a well trained pool of experts, and decades of experience in the areas of power generation, health, agriculture mineral exploration and industrial applications, we hope to be able to contribute even more effectively in future.

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen, and thank you Mr. President.