



# BANGLADESH

Statement by  
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Ministry of Science & Information & Communication Technology Bangladesh  
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**Mr. President,**

On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and my Delegation, I extend our heartiest congratulations on your being elected as the President of the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of General Conference of the IAEA. I also congratulate all other elected officials. I would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation in effectively conducting the business of this Conference.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to His Excellence Mohammad El-Baradei for his wisdom and outstanding efforts in implementing the agency's basic mission of 'Atom for Peace' and helping its Member States to establish a focused synergy between nuclear techniques and their respective national development endeavors.

I am joining previous speakers in welcoming new members of the Agency – Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Lesotho and Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

**Mr. President, Excellencies,**

The present Session of the General Conference of the IAEA bears important historical significance as the world stands in the crossroad of threats of self-induced annihilation of its civilization. Our world seems to careen from one crises to the next: like soaring food and fuel prices around the globe, the threat of climate change, food and energy security, diseases, and non-availability of the drinking water. When people are buffeted with one shock after another, it is not uncommon for them to grow pessimistic, to see the world problems as intractable to solve. Yet from the floor of this 52<sup>nd</sup> IAEA General Conference we view rather a different scenario – a perspective of cautious but resolute optimism.

Many problems as mentioned may find its way with the help of IAEA – the global cross roads of scientific innovation and diplomacy. The key will lie in developing new sustainable technologies and ensuring that these rapidly reach the people who need them most.

**Mr. President,**

The challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be to face the reality that humanity shares a common fate on a crowded planet. To attain the goals of cooperation we must combine four elements: a clear objective, an effective technology, a clear implementation strategy and a source of funding. Small pox eradication, Green & white revolution in Asia, which lifted particularly China, and India out of Chronic hunger, Micro-credit revolution are clear manifestation of this.

Our generation's greatest challenges – in environment, population, and poverty are also our most exciting opportunities. Ours is the generation that can end extreme poverty, turn the tide against climate change and head off a process of massive, thoughtless and irreversible extinction of other species. Ours is the generation that can, and must, solve the unresolved conundrum of combining economic well-being with environmental sustainability. We need Science, Technology and Professionalism, but most of all we need to subdue our fears and cynicism.

**Mr. President,**

Like many other developing countries in Asia and Africa, Bangladesh has the most vulnerable economies, characterized by extremely high population density, low resource base and high incidence of natural disasters that have adverse implications for long-term savings, investment and economic growth of these countries. On the other hand, the vast majority of the population in these countries by and large has not been successful in reaping benefits of the advancement of science and technology. Bangladesh draws attention to the new challenges that the nation has to confront in the context of globalization as well as new problems that arise from the present phase of domestic development. The present National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reductions (NSAPR) of the Government embraces a comprehensive approach highlighting poverty reduction and social development. Reliable supply of energy and electricity is a crucial problem for overall socioeconomic developments and improving the basic qualities of life. Access to electricity at an affordable cost is a constitutional

right of the citizens of Bangladesh. Accordingly the government has the vision to provide electricity to all by 2020.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Currently the global energy scenario shows that 1.6 billion people have no access to electricity; 2.4 billion people rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating having no access to modern fuels; global energy consumption will increase by 50% by 2030 and 70% of this demand will come from the developing countries. Currently the world needs 86 million barrels oil a day, by 2015 it will be 98.5 million barrels a day, the spare capacity of 10 million barrels/day in eighties has come down to 2.5 million barrels a day in 2008, which means that to meet the growing demand the world needs a Azerbaijan or Alaska every year. All these indicate that energy demand is growing exponentially and the imbalance of the demand and supply is in crises.

This ongoing global energy crisis is already having a telling effect on the development endeavors of developed and developing nations, especially in countries that have scarcity of indigenous energy resources and those rapidly depleting their resources.

In this event, the developed world will be less severely affected because of the advantage of financial and physical resources as well as the benefits of expertise and infrastructure. Most of these countries have the capability of nuclear power mitigating their energy crisis. On the other hand, the developing nations those are representing a vast majority of global population are not that fortunate. They have very low energy consumption on per capita basis. Even a modest growth in this respect has subjected the dwindling global reserves of fossil fuels to unprecedented pressure. This will most certainly impact on both availability and price. Access to fuel has already become far more difficult.

Over the years, due to lack of indigenous energy resources, Bangladesh has become a gas dependent mono energy based country. Natural gas accounts for 70% of the total commercial energy consumption and about 90% of the total electricity generation for both grid and off-grid. The country has limited reserve of gas and if natural gas is used at the present rate, this would result in complete depletion of existing reserves within 10-12 years. The country's coal reserve and hydro potential is very limited. Consumption of energy and electricity of Bangladesh in per capita term is one of the lowest in the world. Bangladesh urgently needs to reduce demands on its indigenous fossil fuel. Nuclear

power is an inevitable option for Bangladesh to meet her energy security. Like Bangladesh, the implementation of nuclear power programme in many other developing countries continues to be an enigma. The “clean” nuclear power can be a great boon and this matured technology vastly diminishes the threat to the environment.

In the given scenario, we call upon the IAEA to play a more proactive role in helping the developing countries in introducing nuclear power in their respective generation-mix.

**Mr. President,**

The Human Resource Development (HRD) is essential for successful Nuclear R & D Technology and its non-power as well as power sectors. Qualified human resources are essential for the safety, security, reliability and successful implementation of a nuclear power project. Currently a core team of dedicated scientists, engineers and technical staff are being maintained at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission with much enthusiasm. A further systematic expansion of the human resources is an important prerequisite to the revitalization of the Nuclear Power Plant programme. Innovative approach for HRD is required due to comparatively lower GDP and budget constraints and this approach may be considered for other developing countries those have a vision of introducing NPP for power generation. In this regard, the importance of IAEA for carrying out HRD activities is noted within its mandate.

Another major challenge to the building of NPPs in the developing countries is financing. The Agency may also think to find out innovative financial arrangement to solve the high capital intensive NPP. Since nuclear is a clean energy, so we would like to propose to IAEA for meaningful steps in convincing the international financing agencies like World Bank, IMF, ADB to include nuclear in the Sustainable Environment Management Project. Recognizing that nuclear power emits no green house gases, therefore, should be considered in the Clean Development Mechanizm (CDM), and that the Special Climate Change Fund should be available for use of civilian nuclear power plant. We request the Agency to make a greater necessary effort with the UN for implementation of this proposal.

**Mr. President**

**Distinguished Delegates**

Cancer is a global problem accounting for 12.5% of all deaths worldwide, a greater, percentage than is caused by HIV/AIDS/TB and malaria combined. By 2020 it is

appreciated that there would be 15 million new cases of cancer every year, 70% of which will be in developing countries. Governments there are least prepared to address the growing cancer burden and survival rates are less than half of those of more developed countries. Most new cases are now in low to middle income countries in Asia & Africa where 70% of cases are diagnosed too late to be cured due to lack of resources. The number of new cancer cases in South East Asia is apprehended to jump 60% to 2.1 million by 2020 and by more than 50% to nearly 5 million cases in the western pacific. In Bangladesh 200 thousand new cancer cases are detected each year. But there is almost no screening for breast and cervical cancer in women even though both could be treated successfully if detected early.

The IAEA can make a significant contribution in combating cancer in developing countries. Bangladesh gratefully recognizes the Agency's Technical Cooperation in setting up nuclear medicine and low-dose rate therapy system for diagnosis and cancer treatment. But like many other developing countries, Bangladesh has a lack of access to radiotherapy both for diagnosis and treatment. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission has taken initiative for HRD as well as the facilities to fight cancer. A PET-CT facility is being established by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) that reflects the commitment of the government. In this regard, Bangladesh seeks the Agency's technical assistance in responding the need for safe, effective, and sustained implementation of the country's radiotherapy facilities.

**Mr. President,**

**Distinguished Delegates**

The Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology has been facilitating promotion and peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Bangladesh firmly believes in the philosophy of 'Atom for Peace'. Bangladesh, has impeccable credentials in Non-proliferation. The signing of NPT, CTBT Safeguards Agreement, various protocols/conventions, and bilateral agreements on peaceful uses of atomic energy bears ample testimony to demonstrate the commitment of Bangladesh to the non-proliferation verification regime. Recently Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, in collaboration with the US Department of Energy, has upgraded the Physical Security system of all nuclear facilities/radiation sources both in public and privates sectors with the state-of-the-art technology under Radiological Threat Reduction Programme.

Bangladesh has also commissioned the Establishment of a Central Radioactive Waste Processing and Storage Facility at its AERE complex in Savar, Bangladesh.

The Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources has formulated the National Energy Policy incorporating Nuclear Power as one of the most important component of the energy mix to meet the energy crises and energy security.

The Site Safety Report, the BIS document, nuclear regulatory infrastructure, HRD, and other necessary activities have been undertaken by BAEC for implementation of the NPP. Recently, the Government of Bangladesh has approved a development project entitled, "Accomplishment of necessary activities for Implementation of medium sized Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant". The technical cooperation of the Agency to provide technical assistance in various aspects in the decision-making phases of RNPP is highly appreciated. Bangladesh expects to set up two NPPs in the national grid by 2020. Beyond 2025 the Nuclear share would be 15-20% as envisaged in the National Energy Policy.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of Bangladesh has adopted the principles of nuclear safety oriented culture, to protect the members of the public and the environment from radiation exposure. The country has intensified activities in nuclear safety and radiation control since the enactment of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Act in 1993 and NSRC Rules in 1997. Recently the Regulatory Authority issued operation license of the TRIGA MARK-II Research Reactor after careful analysis of the 'Safety Analysis Report' prepared by Bangladeshi Scientist & Engineers. The Reactor is being operated by operators licensed by the Regulatory Authority. An Act for the Establishment of the 'Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority' is under process. The act will make provisions to establish an independent and impartial regulatory authority to protect the public and the environment from the detrimental effect of atomic energy, radiation source and radioactive materials used in medicine, industry, agriculture, education and research, and to ensure nuclear safety and radiation control for implementation of Nuclear power Reactor.

Recently Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission has formulated a comprehensive Nuclear Law incorporating the essential elements prescribed by IAEA. Bangladesh is working hard to finalize the Nuclear Law and a draft copy has already been submitted to

IAEA for peer review. In this regard the country needs assistance from the IAEA on further revision, if any, to finalise the nuclear laws.

**Mr. President**

We would like to put on record our sincere appreciation for the assistance being provided continuously by the IAEA in its various R & D programs on peaceful uses of atomic energy. Human Resource Development oriented technical assistance need special reference in this context. In keeping with our overall objectives, we are making endeavors to use the results of identified and successful R&D program in different sectors of economy as well as commercialise them. We hope that such support from IAEA would continue in future and indeed grow stronger and more varied with the passage of time.

**Mr. President, Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies & Gentlemen**

We all share a common understanding that peaceful uses of atom that is atom for power is the most important issue for every one. Energy and Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Change Issues, Killer diseases like Cancer, HIV, are problems we must overcome together to protect this planet and this civilization from the imminent danger of elimination.

I reaffirm my Government's commitment and support to the IAEA's efforts in reinforcing the Global Nuclear order for Peace and Prosperity. I express my delegations' sincere appreciation and thanks to the IAEA and participating member states for making the cooperation what it is now- A dynamic forum for sustainable development.

I, on behalf my Delegation, hope that the outcome of this General Conference would greatly facilitate in shaping the future programme of the Agency.

Depending on the successes and experiences of more than half a century, a vision for the next fifty years should be formulated to minimize the gap between the rich and the poor, the developed and the under developed nations.

I thank you for your kind attention.