

## **Statement of the Chinese Delegation to the IAEA's 52<sup>nd</sup> General Conference**

Mr. President,

It is my great pleasure to lead the Chinese delegation to attend the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of General Conference of IAEA. Please allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on your election as President of this General Conference. I believe that your rich diplomatic experience and joint efforts of member states will steer the conference toward a complete success. The Chinese delegation will actively support your work. I would also like to take this opportunity to greet delegations of all member states, Director General Dr. Elbaradei as well as the Secretariat under his leadership.

Mr. President,

Since the 51st General Conference, the Agency has actively responded to challenges in the areas of energy supply, environmental protection, nonproliferation, prevention of nuclear terrorism and nuclear safety in accordance with its missions under the Statute in promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nonproliferation, winning to extensive commendation and strong support from the international community. We are glad to note that the Agency has made important progress in a broad range of activities over the past year. In terms of nuclear technology, the Agency provided active support to relevant countries in the establishment of nuclear power infrastructure, continuing the research in innovative nuclear reactors and fuel cycle, and actively contributing to water resources management and cancer therapy. With regard to nuclear safety and security, the Agency made active efforts in promoting establishment of a sound global nuclear safety system, carrying out Integrated Regulation and Review Services (IRRS) as well as providing nuclear security training,

and assisting relevant countries in upgrading their physical protection systems. In terms of nuclear verification, the Agency has implemented safeguards in over 160 countries, and made efforts to push forward signature of Additional Protocol, improve and implement Integrated Safeguards Approach. All the above mentioned progress and achievement are the result of the joint efforts of all member states and the Secretariat. The Chinese delegation would like to express its appreciation for their efforts made to Dr. Elbaradei and the Secretariat and satisfaction with the work of the Agency over the past year.

Mr. President,

The 29<sup>th</sup> Beijing Olympics and the 13<sup>th</sup> Paralympics came to a successful conclusion not long ago. China has honored its commitment, presenting to the world a splendid and unique sports event. The great success of the Olympic Games is the result of the joint endeavors of the international community. In preparations for the Olympics, IAEA and CAEA had carried out fruitful cooperation on nuclear security. The Agency not only has provided China with much-needed nuclear detection equipment and sent expert missions for advisory and training. On behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the IAEA and relevant member states.

Mr. President,

A devastating earthquake with a magnitude of 8 on Richter scale hit Wenchuan of Sichuan Province in China in May. The Chinese Government attached great importance to the safety of the nuclear facilities in Sichuan. CAEA, NNSA and other related organizations carried out assessment and environmental monitoring over nuclear facilities in quake-affected areas. It was confirmed that all nuclear facilities has been in a safe condition and no leakage of radioactive material into the environment was detected. Governments of many countries and international organizations have provided direct and indirect assistance through various means to China's disaster relief work. What deserves to particular mention in is that the Agency provided China through the TC program with radioactive material detection

equipment and relevant training, which had played a critical role in searching for radioactive sources in the post-quake relief process. The Chinese Government would like to express special thanks to the Agency.

Mr. President,

Due to soaring oil prices and global warming in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, many countries started to review the strategic position of nuclear power in energy security, considering nuclear power development as an important option for satisfying energy requirements and assuring energy security. Over 50 years of practice has proven that nuclear energy is to be a clean, safe and economical energy source.

The Chinese Government formulated the principle of vigorous expansion of nuclear power to meet the requirements of economic and social development in line with overall planning of energy resources. It is planned to achieve the goal of 40 GW installed capacity of operating nuclear power with another 18 GW under construction in 2020. While accelerating nuclear power construction, China has made continuous efforts to foster research and development (R&D) of nuclear energy technologies, with smooth progress in experimental projects such as fast reactor and nuclear fusion program. To keep pace with the rapid nuclear power development, China has augmented political, personnel and financial support to the prospecting and mining of natural uranium and efforts have been made to improve and strengthen all links of fuel cycle. China is ready to share with other Member states, developing countries in particular, its nuclear power development experiences and technologies.

Mr. President,

With strong momentum of world-wide nuclear power development, many countries, a number of which are developing countries, have worked out or are in the process of studying nuclear power development plans. While greatly encouraged by the promising future of global nuclear energy development, we should be fully aware that

there are both rare opportunities and serious challenges facing the Agency. How the Agency, as the sole intergovernmental international organization in nuclear field, fully plays its role in providing better service to member states in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is important to its future orientation. In view of this, the Chinese delegation would like to present the following propositions:

1. The Agency should continue to make full uses of its professional advantage, provide substantial assistance to member states in the establishment of infrastructure for nuclear power and nuclear technology application, so as to accelerate expansion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Nuclear energy application is a complex system engineering project. The safe construction, operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants pose fairly high demands for laws, regulations, human resources, and safety regulation. Nuclear power development also requires proper solutions of complicated issues such as reliable supply of nuclear fuel, safe disposal of radioactive waste and public acceptance. We are of the view that the Agency has the obligation and capability through the technical cooperation and assistance to provide necessary help to developing countries, inter alia, in setting up infrastructure for nuclear power emerging states and assure them with nuclear fuel supply. China holds the position that all countries enjoy the right of peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the prerequisite of compliance with the nonproliferation obligation. The relationship between the two should be dealt with in a balanced manner with a joint effort to explore a multilateral fuel cycle approach acceptable to all. In the meantime, the Agency should continue to foster nuclear technology application, in particular giving priority to those related to human health, water resources management, food and agriculture and environmental protection, with a view to contributing to social and economic growth of developing countries.

2. The Agency should continue its efforts to strengthen development of nuclear safety culture and regulation and standard systems, assisting member states in establishing sound and effective nuclear security systems.

With upgrade of technical and managerial level, the past few decades have witnessed notable improvement in nuclear safety around the world. However, several recent incidents in nuclear facilities revealed the fact that we should not be complacent about nuclear safety worldwide. The Agency should further promote exchanges among member states on nuclear safety related knowledge, culture and experiences, so as to strengthen global nuclear safety regulation and standard system and emergency response system , and to build up public confidence in nuclear safety.

With the vigorous momentum of global renaissance of nuclear energy, nuclear material and radioactive sources are applied in wider scope. It is the responsibility of every country dedicated to peaceful uses of nuclear energy to assure non-diversion and no malicious use of such material. The Agency should encourage international cooperation in the field of nuclear security, and help member states establish and improve nuclear security system, so as to substantially fulfill international obligations.

3, The Agency should continue to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system.

Recent years have seen new developments in the nuclear non-proliferation area around the world. The Agency faces new challenges with regard to how to make full uses of limited resources available to deal with verification issues impartially, objectively and in a balanced manner under the authority granted by international treaties. We propose that the Agency should expand full-scope cooperation with member states, making full uses of their resources under the precondition of guaranteed independent verification, so as to build up its safeguards and verification capability. Moreover, allocation of resources should be optimized with more focus on weak points of non-proliferation, thus enhancing efficiency of the safeguards capability of the Agency. In the meantime, balance should be maintained between that peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nonproliferation should be paid equal attention.

Mr. President,

The IAEA sponsored Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will be held in China in April, 2009. As the host country of this important event, China welcomes senior officials in charge of nuclear energy from other countries to attend the conference and explore major issues related to sustainable nuclear energy development.

Mr. President,

Seeking to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world is the sacred mission authorized by its Statute entrusted to the Agency. China will, as always, continue to support the Agency and we believe that, with the joint efforts of member states and the Secretariat, the Agency will be able to fulfill its mission and make greater contribution to the glorious future of humanity.

Thank you.