



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

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SEPTEMBER 2009

STATEMENT

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

**STATEMENT TO THE FIFTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

by

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and

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SEPTEMBER 2009

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Madam President,

It is indeed a great pleasure to attend the 53rd General Conference of the IAEA; destiny's mysterious role brought me back to this beautiful city and this great International Agency in a different capacity after a period of seven years. Such return certainly entails great responsibility; and I do promise you that I have come with the inherited spirit of Vienna and with a new outlook. A case in point is my recent arduous attempt in facilitating the IAEA's inspection of Arak heavy water research reactor and the Natanz improved safeguards implementation measures.

With this prelude, Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of this unique session. Unique because it is being held in a new hall and that we are witnessing two events, one bidding farewell to a great outgoing Director General; Dr. ELBaradei; who has left behind him a great legacy and second welcoming a new Director General; Ambassador Amano; with his promise of implying a vivid vision of fairness and justice and with the firm commitment of expediting peaceful use of Nuclear Technology among the Member States.

Madam President,

I am confident that, through your wise guidance and able leadership and with the addition of valuable contributions of the participants including my delegation, this conference shall enjoy full success in addressing delicate and important issues such as:

- The inalienable right of peaceful use of nuclear energy and the relevant know-how.
- The enhancement of international peace and security by seeking ways and means of freeing the world of weapons of mass destruction.
- The universal application of the comprehensive safeguards regime without prejudice nor discrimination.
- Maintaining the delicate balance between the promotional responsibilities of the Agency and its verification activities.
- The non-existence of an internationally negotiated legally binding instrument on assurances of nuclear fuel supply.
- Undermining the Agency's independence through undue interference and political pressure on its Secretariat and its professional and impartial activities in contravention to Article VII of the IAEA's statute.

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates,

After the end of the second world war and the ensuing tragedy of the atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear energy and the associated technology have always been at cross-roads, manifesting two distinct features, one in the field of nuclear technology development and the other in the area of

regional and global wrangling. It is indeed very enlightening to note that nuclear competition with the aim of unilateral domination over the world achieved nothing but decades of ominous cold war. What is, however, very discouraging is to witness that despite the apparent disappearance of traces of cold war, the sense of authoritarianism and arrogance still seem very vivid and to be holding sway.

Unfortunately, Madam President, when my country courageously and almost single handed challenges such arrogance they resort to the loose phrase that they are defending their national interest as if they are the only country in the world that have the unique right to speak of national interest. Using such pretext, they have travelled over ten thousand miles away from their native country and have amassed frightening and dreadful weaponry in a region like the Persian Gulf; while if a country in the same region such as my country wants to exercise its own sovereign right it is shamelessly denied. Moreover, we are further being continuously threatened with attacks on our nuclear facilities. This hovering of threats achieves nothing but adding to my great nation's determination and solidarity. A nation that has firmly withstood all the inflicted agonies of an imposed war and unjust sanctions has yet emerged as an advanced nation in its region. We are among the few nations that have successfully launched a satellite. We are also among pioneers in animal cloning of sheep, cow and goat. We have one of the highest numbers of students per hundred thousand of our population and we are unbeatable in the number of published books among the Muslim Nations.

Such a vigilant nation while taking every threat seriously is in the meantime confident of its capacity to defend itself. Our preparedness extends from a generalized civil defence to a comprehensive military defence.

Madam President,

We are a peace loving nation. Let me revert to a wise Persian saying, which says “even one enemy is too many”. We are of the belief that dialogue and unconditional negotiation is a key to resolving disputes. Pre-conditional negotiations serve no purpose, because it is tantamount to foregone conclusions. We have always stated and in clear terms that we have foresworn the non-peaceful uses of nuclear technology. That is why we are insistent on the integrity of the NPT and the global nuclear disarmament. As the Middle East is among the most strategic areas of the globe, the world community has been witness to Iran’s call in 1974(see UN document A/Res 3263XXIX) for the first time, to establish a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East. The Israeli regime, however, the only non-adherent party has so far not been cooperative in this regard. While possessing an established nuclear weapons programme, it has consistently shrugged off this essential International call for peace and security by turning its back on world public opinion and by refusing to even allow the Agency to inspect its nuclear installations. Such an arrogant attitude is certainly not conducive and will most probably lead to an apprehensive paradigm with unexpected consequences in the region.

Madam President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran based on its Islamic tenets, beliefs and human affinity, has always condemned the possession of weapons of mass destruction. As a result, ever since the inception of the Agency my country has maintained strong and active ties with this organization and has at times gone beyond its commitments by implementing the Additional Protocol for over two and a half

years, just to reflect its inherent transparency and sense of cooperation. Unfortunately, however, this positive act of Iran was reversely rewarded. Later, Iran and the Agency agreed on a work plan to set a timetable to end the Agency's investigation of Iran's nuclear activities with the view to turn the Safeguards implementation of my country into a routine manner. We still hope that the Agency will stay by its words and deliver on its commitments in accordance with the last paragraph of document INFCIRC/711. Should the case become routine, then the Islamic Republic of Iran will be in better position to answer questions, if any, like other Member States within the framework of its Safeguards agreement. In other words, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not accept any discriminatory treatment.

Finally, Madam President,

I take this opportunity to highlight some significant aspects of Iran's nuclear program:

- Iran's radioisotopes production capacity to be utilized in healthcare and medical applications has reached to a considerable level. Hopefully this capacity will sharply increase when Arak Heavy Water reactor comes to operation. Then we will be pleased to contribute in meeting the humanitarian demands of brotherly and neighboring countries by providing them pharmaceutical radioisotopes.

- Having acquired considerable experiences in nuclear technology the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to host various workshops and training courses on the applications of nuclear energy in medicine,

agriculture and industry. Such workshops could be organized in collaboration with the IAEA, at regional and international levels.

- The production capacity in Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) in Isfahan is available to other countries, upon their request, under the full supervision of the IAEA.

Madam President,

My country is embarking on a long-term plan, based on the merits of energy mix, to construct nuclear power plants with a total capacity 5000 MWe within the next decade. Naturally, such a sizeable project entails an all out planning, well in advance, in various fields of nuclear technology such as fuel cycle, safety and waste management techniques.

Madam President,

In conclusion, I would like to once again state that while we do pursue our activities in various areas of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we are determined to continue our close cooperation with the Agency in accordance with Safeguards agreement.

Thank you for your attention.