

**53<sup>rd</sup> IAEA General Conference, 14-18 September, 2009**  
**Statement by the Leader of Pakistan's Delegation**

**Madam President,**

It is my privilege to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference. We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance, the Conference will achieve its desired objectives. I take this opportunity to assure you and the General Conference of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

2. Please allow me here to pay tribute to the Director General, H.E. Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei who has led the Agency with distinction and commitment throughout his rather eventful tenure, and he has rightfully earned our high praise and full appreciation, epitomised by the award of the Nobel Prize.

3. At the same time, I would like to convey my warmest felicitations to H.E. Ambassador Yukiya Amano for his election to the onerous post of Director General. His experience, knowledge and diplomatic skills, will be instrumental in enhancing the valuable role of IAEA towards promoting the

peaceful applications of nuclear technology, while maintaining a strong, impartial and professional organization, sensitive to the needs and expectations of all member states – particularly the developing nations who have modest programmes.

**Madam President,**

4. IAEA's unique role as the world's focal point for promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy is assuming greater significance with the increasing global energy demand, the alarming scarcity of fossil fuel reserves, and the growing awareness about the diverse environmental problems that they pose. This scenario has, in the wake of good and safe performance of nuclear power plants, led to a resurgence of interest in nuclear power after more than two decades. It is important to nurture this likely growth lest we miss this opportunity. The promise, therefore, comes with an immense challenge not only for the nuclear industry and the operators but also for the Agency as it is expected to play a guiding role in promoting an equitable access to nuclear technology, materials and equipment.

5. To afford every State its right to the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, particularly nuclear power generation, there is a need to develop universal and non-discriminatory criteria for international cooperation. In this process, principles should be placed above perceptions. Such an approach would also help to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

6. Here, I may remind ourselves of the primary objective enunciated in the Agency's Mission Statement, which says:

“(IAEA) assists its Member States, in the context of social and economic goals, in planning for and using nuclear science and technology for various peaceful purposes, including the generation of electricity, and facilitates the transfer of such technology and knowledge in a sustainable manner to developing Member States;”

**Madam President,**

7. IAEA's Statute is clearly based on the concept that the application of safeguards and safety measures is an associated function in promoting and safely transferring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Its proper implementation, therefore,

requires the maintenance of a balance between the Agency's promotional activities and its work on verification and nuclear security. As circumstances would have it, the latter seems to have taken up better part of the attention of the Agency and its policy-making organs. It is required to ensure that this trend does not hamper the Agency's core statutory function of promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy - particularly because many developing countries having an ambition to start a nuclear power program are looking towards the Agency.

8. The primary vehicle through which the Agency fulfils its promotional role, is its technical cooperation programme. This programme has brought tangible benefits to many developing Member States. IAEA's programmes on human resource development, expert services, fellowships, training courses and equipment supply are the key components of the technical cooperation activities that ensure impact and sustainability. We in Pakistan have greatly benefited from such interactions not only in the area of nuclear power but also in other peaceful applications of nuclear energy which include agriculture, hydrology, medicine and industry. We strongly support and

appreciate the Agency's efforts in improving the quality of its technical cooperation programmes, and in making them compatible with the changing requirements and needs of the Member States, against the odds of resource constraints. Needless to say, these activities should be further strengthened by the provision of sufficient resources and continual enhancement of their effectiveness. For its part, Pakistan will continue to contribute by sharing its experience, offering training placements at its educational and R&D centres whenever requested and through providing the services of experts.

**Madam President,**

9. Pakistan has long been a strong advocate of using nuclear technology for progress and prosperity. Let me point out to this august audience that Pakistan signed a contract for the first nuclear power plant in the mid-sixties when very few developing countries had even thought of harnessing nuclear energy. This plant, connected to the grid in 1972, is still operating and we take care of all the front-end requirements of the fuel cycle. However, our second plant, the 300 MW C-1 came with some

delay and was commissioned in 2000 with Chinese assistance. The Agency played a very supportive role in assessing the design and operational safety of this plant. Our third plant, C-2 is also nearing completion. Pakistan looks forward to the Agency and to the developed world for assistance as it develops its nuclear power programme, so that this clean source of electrical power could be exploited in an energy starved country.

10. While nuclear power has been the mainstay of our effort, Pakistan has also developed programmes around application of ionizing radiation and radioisotopes for the well being of its populace in the fields of agriculture and medicine. A typical example is that of the 13 nuclear medical centres which Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is running across the country, where every year about half a million patients are provided diagnostic and therapeutic services, most of them free of cost. Another five such centres are under construction.

11. Alongside the inception of its atomic energy development programme, Pakistan has recognized that ensuring nuclear safety and security is of vital importance. In these areas,

Pakistan continuously strives to follow existing international standards and practices and has based its national regulations on the Agency's Nuclear Safety Standards. The Agency's guidance documents on the physical protection of facilities and materials, and on the safety and security of radioactive sources, are being used as a basis for inspection and enforcement.

12. Pakistan as a State Party has been fulfilling its obligations regarding Convention on Nuclear Safety, Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Pakistan is actively participating in the nuclear safety and security activities and programmes of the Agency. Consequently, while Pakistan is receiving valuable assistance from the IAEA and Member States, it is also sharing its experience and resources with the IAEA and Member States. Pakistan is also contributing to the IAEA databases such as ITDB, INES and IRS.

**Madam President,**

13. Here I would like to reiterate Pakistan's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. Pakistan has maintained a good track record in Agency safeguards. Following international standards, we are continuously improving controls over the export of goods, technologies and facilities. Pakistan believes that the global non-proliferation regime must be strengthened on the basis of moral, political and international commitments.

14. To conclude, as I express our deep appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by the Agency in the fields of nuclear technology, safety and security, my delegation also believes that the Agency should take larger initiatives to facilitate construction of nuclear power plants in Member States on a non-discriminatory basis. This would contribute to the economic growth of the countries, and economic growth for all, Madam President, is truly the catalyst we need to eradicate the menaces we face today.

Thank you, Madam President.