



Statement by

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Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh

at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future (ICONS 2024)

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Excellency the Co-Presidents,

I begin by conveying my country's deep condolences to the Iranian delegation and people for this week's unfortunate accident.

We congratulate the distinguished Co-Presidents of Australia and Kazakhstan for steering the ICONS 2024 and thank the DG IAEA and the conference staff for organizing this Conference. I stand before you today with a profound sense of my country's commitment to advancing the global discourse on nuclear security.

Bangladesh recognizes the centrality of the IAEA in ensuring and developing international nuclear security architecture by providing support to Member States and coordinating global activities for nuclear security in the aspects of physical protection, computer security and information security for nuclear and other radioactive materials and associated activities.

Bangladesh firmly believes that the responsibility for nuclear security within a state rests entirely with that State and that nuclear security should not be a condition or pre-requisite for technical cooperation projects. We also reiterate that the nuclear security considerations should not limit Member States' rights to peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Bangladesh's firm commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and "atoms for peace & development" is anchored in Article 25 of our Constitution and the dream of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to work towards "relaxation of tension, limitation of armaments and the promotion of peaceful coexistence in every part of the world."



Guided by this fundamental principle of our foreign policy, Bangladesh has always remained at the forefront in assuming higher obligations under all major multilateral disarmament treaties, including treaties related to nuclear security such as NPT, CTBT, TPNW, ICSANT, CPPNM and its Amendment. We have pledged to implement the Agency's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Bangladesh is also the first South Asian country to ratify NPT.

Dear Delegates,

Bangladesh has embarked on a substantial undertaking of nuclear power production with the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant to achieve SDG 7, providing affordable and clean energy to our citizens. In October last year, the first fuel was delivered on-site and we are going ahead at full pace towards successfully commissioning 1st reactor soon. Our national legislation "Regulations for Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities" will come into force shortly as well. We are also implementing a PPS construction project for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

As a new entrant in the nuclear power programme, Bangladesh sincerely appreciates the Agency's capacity-building support, including hands-on training on physical protection, computer security, radiological crime scene management, and nuclear forensic sciences. In this context, we also acknowledge the extrabudgetary contributions of the member countries to the Agency's Nuclear Security Fund.

We commend the Agency for its review and advisory service missions to the Member States in developing action plans within the Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan (INSSP) framework. We welcome the opening of the Nuclear Security and Demonstration Training Center (NSTDC) in Seibersdorf and hope that this would be a new hub for nuclear security-related knowledge dissemination and innovation.

Excellencies,

Let me seize this opportunity to underscore that ICONS 2024 is taking place at a critical time when challenges are high due to existing and emerging nuclear security threats. We therefore must strive to secure universalization and implementation of all international instruments relevant to nuclear security to create a safe and sustainable future for the next generations. In this context, Bangladesh fully upholds the mandate of the Agency.



In conclusion, Bangladesh is aware of the responsibilities and obligations that may come with emerging and innovative technologies. We are firmly committed to uphold the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation at home and globally in cooperation with international partners and the IAEA.

We reiterate our support to the global nuclear security regime which will help us to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030 through nuclear science.

Thank you all.