

Statement of Bangladesh by

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and the Technical Cooperation Programme

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Esteemed Co-Chairs, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon to all of you.

Let me begin by congratulating the distinguished **Co-Chairs** of Ghana and Finland for steering this IAEA Ministerial Conference. Bangladesh assures you of our full support and cooperation.

We also extend our appreciation to Director General, His Excellency, Rafael Mariano Grossi and his team for their leadership, commitment and dedication to the Agency's work for advancing the global collaboration on atomic energy.

Co-Chairs,

The theme of the conference is indeed timely as our world is facing increasingly complex challenges, ranging from food security and safety, healthcare, water resource management to climate change mitigation, monitoring and adaptation.

The complexity of the challenges requires a multisectoral approach that integrates partnership and resource mobilization across all sectors. In addition, initiatives at global scale are inevitable to address these challenges alone. Nuclear techniques are an integral part of the technological solutions needed to tackle these.

Bangladesh strongly supports the IAEA's central role in assisting the Member States' efforts to apply nuclear science and technology in their development priorities and achieving the SDGs through effective cooperation programmes.

The Agency is playing a central role in addressing the recent global challenges through its cross-cutting initiatives: Atoms4NetZero, Rays of Hope, Atoms4Food, ZODIAC and NUTEC Plastics.

Excellencies,

Our country is a significant beneficiary of the Agency's assistance. Bangladesh is effectively promoting nuclear science and technology in diverse areas, including human health, food and agriculture, industry, environment protection and building nuclear power generation with the Agency's support.

Climate change is a real threat to global and national level prosperity. Though a smaller emitter of greenhouse gases, the country is adversely affected by climate change due to its low elevation, high population density and extreme destitution. The climate change effects have been adversely affecting country's agricultural activities.

Bangladesh recognized that nuclear technology can be of immense value to better cope with and mitigate the depredations of climate change. We deeply appreciate the Agency's technical support through plant mutation breeding to enhance our food security and agricultural productivity. Bangladesh has developed 134 high-yielding crop varieties which include 85 mutant varieties and more than 150 nos. of production technologies by harnessing the advantages of nuclear techniques along with other advanced technologies.

Co-Chairs,

The use of atomic energy and nuclear technology in the human health sector is a national priority and a total of 23 nuclear medicine and allied sciences institutes are playing a vital role in the diagnosis and quality treatment of cancer patients in the country. The radiopharmaceutical generators required by these and other private hospitals are being produced locally. We have plans to further expand these services by setting up more nuclear medical centers and relevant facilities.

Bangladesh appreciates the Agency's extensive support in capacity building and knowledge to advance cancer care, research and innovation regionally and globally.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has recognized the critical importance of sustainability, prioritizing it as a national goal. Bangladesh is employing nuclear technologies to achieve net-zero carbon emissions. The construction of the two reactor units with a total capacity of 2400MWe power plant is being built in Rooppur, Pabna. The nuclear power plant is our commitment to embrace nuclear energy as a key green component in our energy portfolio to combat climate change and ensure energy security.

In the current cycle, Bangladesh is running 6 (six) Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects in the field of health care, environment, nuclear energy and food safety. Bangladesh is pleased to have concluded, the 2024-2032 Country Programme Framework (CPF) with the Agency, which will be signed soon. Bangladesh sincerely appreciates the IAEA in supporting through TC programs to further expand the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology to the attainment of development objectives of the country.

We acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the IAEA to international peace, security and prosperity. The country continues to take roles in promoting effective and harmonized approaches to strengthening nuclear safety, security and safeguards in collaboration with the Agency. Therefore, we stand before you today with a profound sense of my country's commitment to transparency and professionalism, as fundamental principles for our peaceful nuclear programme.

Co-Chairs, Distinguished Delegates,

In closing, let me reiterate our country's unwavering dedication to our partnership with the Agency and I extend my best wishes for the success of this Ministerial Conference. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts to enhance the safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for worldwide prosperity.

Thank you all.