



Bangladesh

Statement by
Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh
at the 60th Session of General Conference of IAEA
Vienna, 26-30 September 2016

Mr. President,
Mr. Director General (Mr. Yukiya Amano),
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning/Good afternoon

Mr. President

I congratulate you on your election as the President of the 60th session of the General Conference of IAEA. I also congratulate the Vice Presidents, Chairmen of the Committees and other elected officials of the Bureau. We fully trust that under your competent leadership this Session of the General Conference would attain all its objectives. We assure you and your colleagues of our fullest support and cooperation.

I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President of the Session of the General Conference for his remarkable contribution.

I also extend my thanks and gratitude to the Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano for his unfailing leadership in running IAEA as a successful Organization.

We welcome the new member states and congratulate them on their entry into the IAEA family.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh enjoys an enviable relationship with IAEA that actually stems from our inherent confidence in the pivotal role of IAEA in coordinating international efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety, security and safeguards in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appreciates IAEA for its cooperation extended to the Government of Bangladesh.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Bangladesh has a quickly growing economy with a vision to be a higher middle-income country by 2021 and a front ranking developed nation by 2041 under the able leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, daughter of the father of our nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh acknowledges that extended use of atomic energy in various sectors with the support of IAEA will contribute a lot to strengthen our efforts in achieving the goal of our socio-economic development.

Excellencies,

Bangladesh has been successfully and efficiently using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes for quite a long time. However, our initiative to go for nuclear power generation is fairly recent. Of course as a late entrant, we have perhaps got the advantage of using the latest technology for ensuring nuclear safety and security.

Bangladesh has taken nuclear energy as a safe, environment-friendly and economically viable source of electricity generation to meet the increasing demand of electricity and thus unlock our development potentials through enhanced productivity and sustained growth. Our aim is to generate at least 4000 MW electricity from nuclear sources by 2030, which will be 10% of our total targeted electricity generation (40,000 MW) by that time. In order to achieve that target we have started construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the first NPP of the country, under bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Russian Federation.

Excellencies,

After last General Meeting, we have been able to make some noticeable progress in the implementation of Rooppur NPP Project. An Inter Governmental Credit Agreement was signed on 26 July 2016 between the Government of Bangladesh and Russian Federation. Prior to that, the General Contract was signed on 25 December 2015 between Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and the Russian Contractor Atomstroyexport. It is my pleasure to inform you that Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority issued the Site License on 21 June, 2016 for the project after conducting year-long thorough review and assessment process of all the required regulatory documents, following IAEA guideline, with the help of the Regulatory Authority of the vendor country Russian Federation. We are privileged that IAEA has helped a lot in capacity building of our Regulatory Authority and developing sitting guide, regulation through TC project. We have selected a Reference Plant design concept for Rooppur NPP Project which is the fundamental design selection Philosophy as per IAEA guideline for newcomer country. Design and Construction licenses are expected to be issued by June 2017. The first concrete pouring date of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant has been scheduled on 1 August 2017 and that

would be another great historic moment for Bangladesh. I take this privilege to invite you to that memorable occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I mentioned, in implementation of Rooppur NPP, we are closely working with IAEA. In the meantime, a follow-up INIR Mission reviewed the progress of Bangladesh in the context of recommendations and suggestions provided previously. The INIR team concluded with satisfaction that Bangladesh had made a noticeable progress in implementing the recommendations and suggestions of the mission. In this context, I would like to reiterate that there will be no short-cut way to building our capacity in terms of infrastructure development, human resources and application of new generation technology. We are implementing the Integrated Work Plan for national infrastructure developed jointly with the IAEA following the guidelines of the Agency. In this regard, we also express our gratitude to our neighbouring trusted friend India for its help in training of personnel and sharing of experience.

Mr. President,

In implementing NPP project, Bangladesh is attaching top priority to the issues of radiological protection as well as nuclear safety and security. Bangladesh has established Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority, an independent regulatory body to regulate and oversee all safety aspects and physical protection of nuclear materials and installations, waste safety, transport safety of radioactive material as well as emergency preparedness and response. In addition, we have established Nuclear Power Plant Company as the operating organization with a view to ensuring national and international obligations regarding implementation of NPP projects and safe operation and maintenance of the Plants. It is perhaps needless to say that our nuclear energy generation programme would be solidly anchored at our firm position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The IAEA is our main partner for promotion of safe and secure applications of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. Through the Technical Cooperation (TC) programme, the Agency has been cooperating and assisting Bangladesh in human resource development and capacity building for introduction, development and making peaceful use of nuclear techniques in various sectors of the country such as Nuclear Infrastructure, Livestock, Agriculture, Health, Industry, Water Management etc. The development of human resources through TC projects constitute a part of the success story in our country. We hope that such support in various sectors from the IAEA would continue in future.

Mr. President,

We consider the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) is a powerful tool to promote and coordinate research and development activities to answer national problems through utilizing the experience, expertise and resources. Bangladesh is confident that RCA would continue to promote regional capabilities and expertise in different thematic areas like: energy, health, agriculture, industry and environment, research reactor and radioactive waste management, nuclear safety and radiation protection. It is decided that the 39th RCA Meeting would be held in Bangladesh in 2017. We are waiting to welcome the national representatives of all the member states to this RCA meeting.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, I wish every success of the 60th IAEA GC and hope that its outcome would greatly facilitate the shaping of the future programmes of the Agency and the Member States in such a way that the people could be the ultimate beneficiary of the peaceful use of nuclear technology.
I thank you for your kind attention.