

Statement by:

H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi

Vice-president of the
Islamic Republic of Iran

and

The Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran

Head of Delegation

The Islamic Republic of Iran

60th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference

Vienna, September 2016

In the name of God
The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my gladness for participating in this General Conference which happens to be coincident with the 60th anniversary of establishment of the IAEA and I seize this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia for assuming the presidency of this conference. Undoubtedly, the annual General Conference of the Agency attended by senior officials of Member States offers the best opportunity and conduit for exchange of views.

I would also like on behalf of my government to welcome the “Islamic Republic of the Gambia”, “Saint Lucia” and “Saint Vincent and Grenadines”, as the new members of IAEA.

Mr. President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran following its path for development of peaceful nuclear technology in the light of country’s Supreme Leader Fatwa on the prohibition (Haram) of production, storage and use of the weapons of mass destructions, has created a unique paradigm in international relations through genuinely upholding IAEA’s goal which seeks to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world as enshrined in Article 2 of its Statute.

Two years after intensive negotiations on basis of equal par and mutual respect and with timely and full implementation of the commitments by Iran, the IAEA Director General’s official and decisive report on the final assessment

of Iran`s past and present nuclear issues, which was released as a requirement for the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), closed forever this false and fabricated nuclear file.

This epoch making agreement which took place in December 2015, was undoubtedly achieved as a result of my nation`s persistence on its inalienable rights. This is a diplomatic triumph not only for Iran, but also for the history of world politics. It is now incumbent upon all of us to work together in good faith to sustain the integrity of the JCPOA, which we believe is in the interest of the entire international community.

Mr. President,

My country has played its role with great efforts by implementing all its JCPOA commitments which was monitored and verified by the Agency as well as continuing its close cooperation with the IAEA through voluntary effectuation of the Additional Protocol in accordance with the provisions of the JCPOA. However, expectations regarding comprehensive and expeditious removal of all sanctions, as stipulated in the JCPOA, have yet to be met. Reciprocal and full implementation of the commitments by E3/EU+3 is the crucial foundation of the JCPOA and the fundamental part of the agreement for its durability. In the meantime, it is expected that the IAEA on its part would continue to pursue its oversighting mission impartially and with fairness and full objectivity.

Dear Colleagues,

In the existing atmosphere of the post JCPOA, by relying on our developed infrastructures specifically the possession of highly talented and experienced human resources, we shall continue to speed up the development of peaceful nuclear technology both in power and non-power domains and applications. Accordingly, we express our readiness to cooperate with the interested technologically advanced Member States as well as exchanging experiences and know- how with the developing countries. In this regard, the technical cooperation program of the IAEA can be utilized to expedite such cooperation.

Furthermore, in order to increase the nuclear power contribution in my country`s energy basket, the construction of new nuclear power plants is put

into the agenda of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, as the first power plant in the Middle East, was recently handed over to the Iranian operator after its successful commissioning and safe operation. This power plant so far has saved around 25 million barrels of equivalent oil and prevented the emission of about 16 million tons of pollutants. Moreover, an advanced training center for Bushehr power plant has been set up which can play a significant role in promoting the knowledge and skills of the operators. We, hereby, declare our readiness to offer training services to other Member States, specifically, the neighboring Member States within the IAEA's technical cooperation framework. With respect to the long-term nuclear power development plan and their assured supply of fuel, a contract has been signed with Rusatom from the Russian Federation. Accordingly, The launching of the first phase of the two new nuclear power plants began in September 10th of this year in the presence of H.E. Eshagh Jahangiri, Iran`s First Vice President, and H.E. Sergei Kirienko ,the Rusatom CEO.

In addition to Iran`s impressive development in various aspects of *fission technology*, attempts in developing nuclear *fusion technology* as a national project is also under serious consideration. Initial steps in this regard have been taken with the assistance of the international partners, such as EU and the IAEA.

Dear Delegates,

Continuous promotion of the nuclear safety knowledge as a global challenge, is an essential collective task. Moreover, the need for ceaseless enhancement of safety standards, entails uninterrupted publication of safety series by the agency as well as fulfilling its role in facilitating and improving the scope of cooperation in this field. Iran, as a pioneer country in the region utilizing peaceful nuclear energy, has always attached a high priority to nuclear safety. In this regard, setting up an advanced nuclear safety center equipped with modern technologies and equipment is being contemplated. This center can be considered as a fulcrum in regional nuclear safety cooperation. In the same vein, a nuclear safety conference is envisaged to be convened in Iran which could be used as a conduit for collaboration and better understanding among the countries in the Persian Gulf region which have recently embarked on acquiring nuclear power plants. At this juncture, we welcome the

cooperation of EU in this respect and believe such cooperation will enhance the nuclear safety in the region.

Mr. President,

We are of the belief that the role of the Agency in the domain of nuclear security, taking into consideration the sovereignty of the Member States, is indeed crucial. Measures to strengthen nuclear security should neither hamper the international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities nor should it undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation program. Moreover, in order to underpin the nuclear security infrastructure, sharing of accumulated knowledge and experiences is indispensable. As it was noted in the previous General Conference resolutions, the inclusive participation of IAEA Member States is essential for contriving any new idea in connection with nuclear security. Hence, decisions made in selective restricted meetings cannot be expected to be recognized by the majority of Member States. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran advocates the continuity of inclusive and routine ministerial meetings. In this context, my country welcomes and will participate in the upcoming IAEA international conference on nuclear security to be held in Vienna from 5 to 9, December 2016.

Mindful of our national security as well as the security of other nations, we express our deep concern regarding illicit trafficking of nuclear material and also the possible acquisition of dirty bombs by terrorists. One of the most wretched instances of nuclear sabotage is the employment of cyber-attacks; a vivid example of which was the deployment of the Stuxnet virus against nuclear and other civil facilities.

Dear Delegates,

While supporting the implementation of the IAEA safeguards and the related verification mechanisms, we expect that the application of the state level concept and approach should not lead to discriminatory implementation of the respective measures and to undermining the sovereignty of Member States. Therefore, for the sake of clarity and removal of ambiguities and consideration

of the remaining concerns, we urge the Secretariat to pursue further its faithful and regular constructive consultations with the Member States.

Along the same line, clearly, the implementation of the JCPOA and the safeguards regime including the voluntary application of the Additional Protocol has paved the way for the Agency to expeditiously reach the stage of Broader Conclusion vis-à-vis my country. However, the key point here is to hold the Agency adhering to the principle of confidentiality.

Mr. President,

Obviously, the world without nuclear weapons under the full implementation of Article VI of NPT and the realization of nuclear disarmament by 2025 as proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement is an inevitable necessity and certainly one of the best guaranties for nuclear security. The Islamic Republic of Iran as an advocate of Nuclear Disarmament, once again urges the Nuclear Weapon States to meet their obligations in this regard. All Member States must add their voice to this crucial and fateful call, because, as it goes in Persian saying, “one hand alone cannot produce the clapping sound”.

Mr. President, Dear Participants

Iran as the initiator of establishing Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East since 1974, reiterates its deep concern over Israeli clandestine military nuclear program. Unfortunately, despite the adoption of the resolution of the NPT Review Conference in 1995 and also its Action Plan in 2010, the Zionist regime still has not put its nuclear activities and facilities under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement of the IAEA, and thereby endangering stability and the security of the region as well as the integrity and credibility of the NPT.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our motto, which reads “Nuclear Energy for all and Nuclear Weapon for none”. This message if realized would

accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

Thank you for your attention,