**60th IAEA General Conference, 25-30 September, 2016**

**Statement by the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation**

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you, your Excellency Dato' Adnan bin OTHMAN on your election as President of the 60th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Vice Presidents, and other members of the Board. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my Delegation. Under your able leadership and guidance, we firmly believe that this Conference will accomplish all its tasks.

2. I welcome Islamic Republic of the Gambia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as new members of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Their membership will be of benefit to them and to the IAEA members in the years to come.

3. I also wish to convey Pakistan's appreciation to Director General, IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano, for his leading role in steering the Agency in accordance with its Statute.

Mr. President,

4. Nuclear Technology has made significant contributions to the socioeconomic development of the world; this contribution is bound to increase in the coming years. The Sustainable Development Goals will require even more input of nuclear technology. Nuclear Power also has its role in the energy mix of the future; it has to make this contribution in a manner that is safe and beneficial. This is the reason that an increasing number of countries are wishing to embark on nuclear power programmes. This expansion requires a greater contribution on the part of the Agency, as most of the countries wishing to start their nuclear power programmes look towards the IAEA for guidance and support. Over the years Pakistan has benefited immensely from the expertise made available by the Agency in form of the Technical Cooperation Programme, Expert Mission; Operational Safety Review Teams (OSARTs) and Assessment of Safety Significant Event Teams (ASSETs) Missions. The OSART Mission for our C-1 plant was performed from 23 November to 10 December 2015. A number of other IAEA supported or sponsored activities have been held or are planned to be held in Pakistan during the current year. Pakistan has also provided cost free experts to the IAEA for Small

Modular Reactors (SMR) and the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO).

5. The IAEA and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) can be said to be growing together for the last 60 years. Guided by the past interactions, Pakistan remains committed to collaborate even more closely with the Agency for harnessing the vast potential of nuclear technology.

Mr. President

6. One of the greatest challenges faced by humanity is global warming and the associated climate change. Pakistan is one of the ten countries most affected by this change. It is for this reason that nuclear power's contribution in our energy mix is planned to increase substantially in the future. Nuclear technology also offers means of study and mitigation of climate change. The Agency may aggressively promote the development and use of nuclear techniques in climate change analysis and mitigation. Technical cooperation programmes in this area should be strengthened.

7. Pakistan's first nuclear power plant, KANUPP, connected to the grid in 1972 continues to function without the vender support and has recently set a new record of continuous operation. The safe and successful operation of KANUPP gave Pakistan the confidence to further pursue and advance the nuclear power option to address the country's severe electric power shortage.

8. The Chashma Nuclear Power Plant's units C-1 and C-2, both 325 MWe each, supplied by the People's Republic of China under a long term cooperation agreement, continue to operate successfully and economically. Two more units C-3 and C-4 in this series are expected to be connected to the grid in the coming months. Two larger nuclear power plants K-2, K-3 of 1100 MWe each are also under construction in Karachi. With the commissioning of these units nuclear power will start making a sizeable contribution to electricity generation in the country. Pakistan envisages a nuclear power generation capacity of 40,000 MWe under its Nuclear Energy Vision-2050.

9. Pakistan has all its civilian facilities under IAEA Safeguards without any exception. Pakistan is firmly committed to put all future nuclear power plants procured from outside or produced locally, under IAEA safeguards.

10. Pakistan believes that focus on nuclear security and safety should further enhance international cooperation in peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Confidence in safety and security of nuclear and radiological materials and associated facilities should facilitate collaboration in health, industry, agriculture and other sectors. As the nuclear power generation program is expanding, Pakistan

is also investing in safety and security of its nuclear installations. The new plants being acquired for the Karachi site are Generation III plants with enhanced safety

features. Pakistan also initiated an action plan after the Fukushima incident to re-assess and upgrade the safety of our nuclear power plants. Immediate and mid-term actions have already been taken and implemented in this regard.

11. This year, Pakistan has ratified the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, thus fulfilling its commitment made at the Nuclear Security Summit. We are grateful to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for arranging the 2016 Annual Meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres in Pakistan. This was the first time that such a meeting was held at a place outside the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna. The venue of the meeting was Pakistan's Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Security (PCENS) - an institute setup to provide specialized training courses in physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, material control and accounting, personnel reliability, transport security and other security-related areas.

12. We are very grateful to the Agency for providing Physical Protection Equipment to the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), a premier institute for education and training in nuclear science and technology in Pakistan. It also offers special courses on nuclear security and physical protection as part of the curriculum on nuclear engineering programs. Pakistan offers these facilities as a regional and international hub for training.

13. Pakistan has always focused on developing a strong safety and regulatory infrastructure. Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), setup in 2001, enjoys complete autonomy from the operators. PNRA has based its regulations on the IAEA safety standards and in collaboration with the IAEA, is providing its services in development of nuclear safety infrastructure to the countries embarking on a nuclear power program.

Mr. President

14. Besides nuclear power, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has made other important contributions to the socio-economic sector by bringing peaceful application of nuclear technology to the common people. PAEC is currently providing vital services to the nation through its 18 oncology medical hospitals where about 80% of cancer patients in the country are treated each year. PAEC plans to further expand its services to the public by setting up more nuclear medical centres.

15. Our four agriculture and biotechnology centres are also making valuable contributions to the agriculture and livestock sectors of the country. PAEC has also developed a very sound infrastructure for addressing various problems related to

water resource management using isotopes techniques. These agricultural research centres have produced 92 varieties of different crops.

16. In addition to the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), we have a network of in-house educational and training institutions that encompass all major nuclear science and technology and nuclear power, such as the Karachi Institute of Power Engineering (KINPOE) at KANUPP, and the Chasnupp Center for Nuclear Training, CHASCENT at Chashma. Besides meeting the needs of our own programme, these institutes welcome participants from other IAEA member states.

17. Mr. President, I must appreciate the support that IAEA has provided to Pakistan through expert services, equipment and human resource development in helping us to establish and improve facilities in many diverse areas including nuclear radiation, nuclear safety, nuclear security, application of nuclear technology in agriculture, medicine, industry and nuclear energy. Many dignitaries and officials of the IAEA

including the Director General, and Deputy Directors General of the IAEA have visited Pakistan.

18. Mr. President, over the years, Pakistan has streamlined and strengthened its export control regime and enhanced its engagement with multilateral export control regimes. Pakistan has strong credentials to become a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and other multilateral export control regimes, if judged on non-discriminatory and objective criteria. Pakistan considers this to be a mutually beneficial proposition for the international community and as well as for itself.

19. In conclusion, please accept my appreciation for the positive role the IAEA is playing in promoting the peaceful application of nuclear technology around the world. Pakistan has benefitted immensely from this cooperation and we have, on our part, made some contributions towards the Agency's activities by sharing our experience, providing expert services particularly in the areas of energy planning, water management, nuclear site studies and development of regulatory infrastructure. We hope to be able to contribute even more in future.

Thank you, Mr. President.