



AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

at the

IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Commitments and Actions

5-9 December 2016

Delivered by

Dr. Abdul Hai Nazifi, Acting Head
Afghan Atomic Energy High Commission

Mr. President,

Director General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be part of this important international conference on a topic that is very much relevant to our collective efforts at the international level towards security and stability.

At the outset, please allow me to express my congratulations to Your Excellency, on your election as the President of this Conference.

Mr. President,

We highly commend the efforts of the IAEA and the excellent leadership of Director General Yukiya Amano in promoting global nuclear security including through providing continued technical assistance services as well as publishing important guidance documents

in this important area. We hold the view that the IAEA has a central role in the area of nuclear security and has the capacity to guide us towards enhanced international cooperation on nuclear security matters.

Afghanistan welcomes the efforts at all levels to further increase nuclear security worldwide. As Director General Amano stated yesterday “Terrorists and criminals will try to exploit any vulnerability in the global nuclear security system”. We therefore need to further strengthen our efforts at all national, regional and international levels towards global nuclear security.

As a founding member of the IAEA and a party to key international instruments including NPT and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material we are committed to fully observe the relevant international instruments to which Afghanistan is a party.

Afghanistan's Nuclear Act, drafted by the High Commission with support from the Agency, was approved by the parliament last year and the draft regulations for radiation safety in the areas of licensing, waste management and the transport of radioactive materials have been developed with technical support from the IAEA. Such efforts will further improve the legal and regulatory framework including a regulatory system for radiation safety and protection required for the application of nuclear science and technology in Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

We are grateful for the support provided by the Agency to Afghanistan over the past few years including under the Country Program Framework. The Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission(AAEHC), the main implementing partner in Afghanistan, along with other relevant agencies in the country have greatly benefited from technical cooperation by the Agency including training and

capacity-building opportunities through national as well as regional and international projects.

We remain committed to further developing the regulatory framework including for radiation safety and protection. We hope that we will witness even greater support -- including through the Technical Cooperation Fund -- to the new CPF for Afghanistan.

Thank you!