

**Statement of H.E. Ambassador M. Abu Zafar of Bangladesh to
the International Nuclear Security Conference 2016**

Mr. President
Distinguished Delegates
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

At the outset, let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption as President of the 2nd International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments & Actions. Bangladesh greatly appreciates IAEA and its staff for organizing the Conference, which is very timely given the fact that the non-state actors have been striving hard to acquire nuclear weapons resulting in the risk of theft and smuggling of nuclear materials. However, we take a little solace that with the entry into force of the new nuclear security convention, the Amendment to the CPPNM, in May this year, the nuclear security architecture has been further strengthened.

I also take this opportunity, on behalf of my delegation, to commend Director General Yukiya Amano and his team for IAEA's accomplishments under his leadership. Bangladesh expresses its support to Director General Yukiya Amano for his re-election bid.

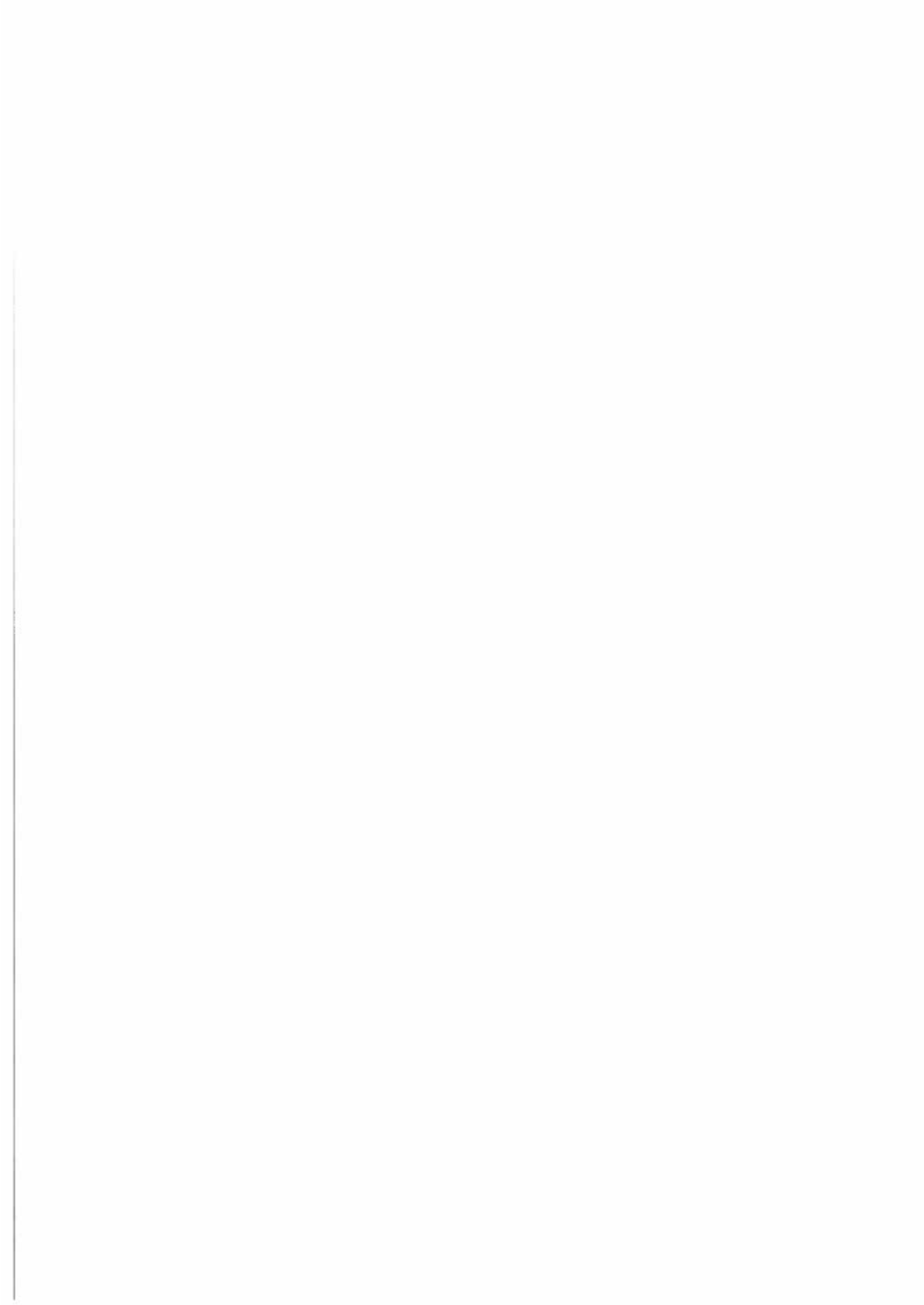
Special thanks to co-chairs H.E. Ambassador Song Young-wan of the Republic of Korea and H.E. Ambassador Abel Adelakun Ayoko of Nigeria, for successfully steering Ministerial Declaration of the Conference. Heartiest congratulations to you both on its adoption!

Mr. President,

Nuclear security and safety is of paramount importance to our country. Bangladesh, therefore, recognizes the pivotal role of IAEA in enhancing global nuclear safety, security and safeguards as well as in facilitating nuclear techniques and energy for peaceful purposes. Bangladesh also understands that within the country the responsibility of nuclear security lies squarely with the State, while overall nuclear security is a shared responsibility of all nations.

In our region, Bangladesh is State Party to all major international instruments on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as to the nuclear security and safeguards related protocols and agreements including the CPPNM. To further contribute to enhancing nuclear security we are currently working on the ratification process of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and it would be completed soon.

Current legislative and regulatory frameworks of Bangladesh guarantee proper consideration for health, safety, security and protection of the people and environment whilst utilizing nuclear materials and facilities as well as carrying out any nuclear and ionizing radiation related



activities. Bangladesh, as a non-nuclear weapon state party to the NPT, has established a state system of accounting for and control of nuclear materials based on the agreement between Bangladesh and the IAEA for the application of safeguards in connection with the NPT.

Mr. President

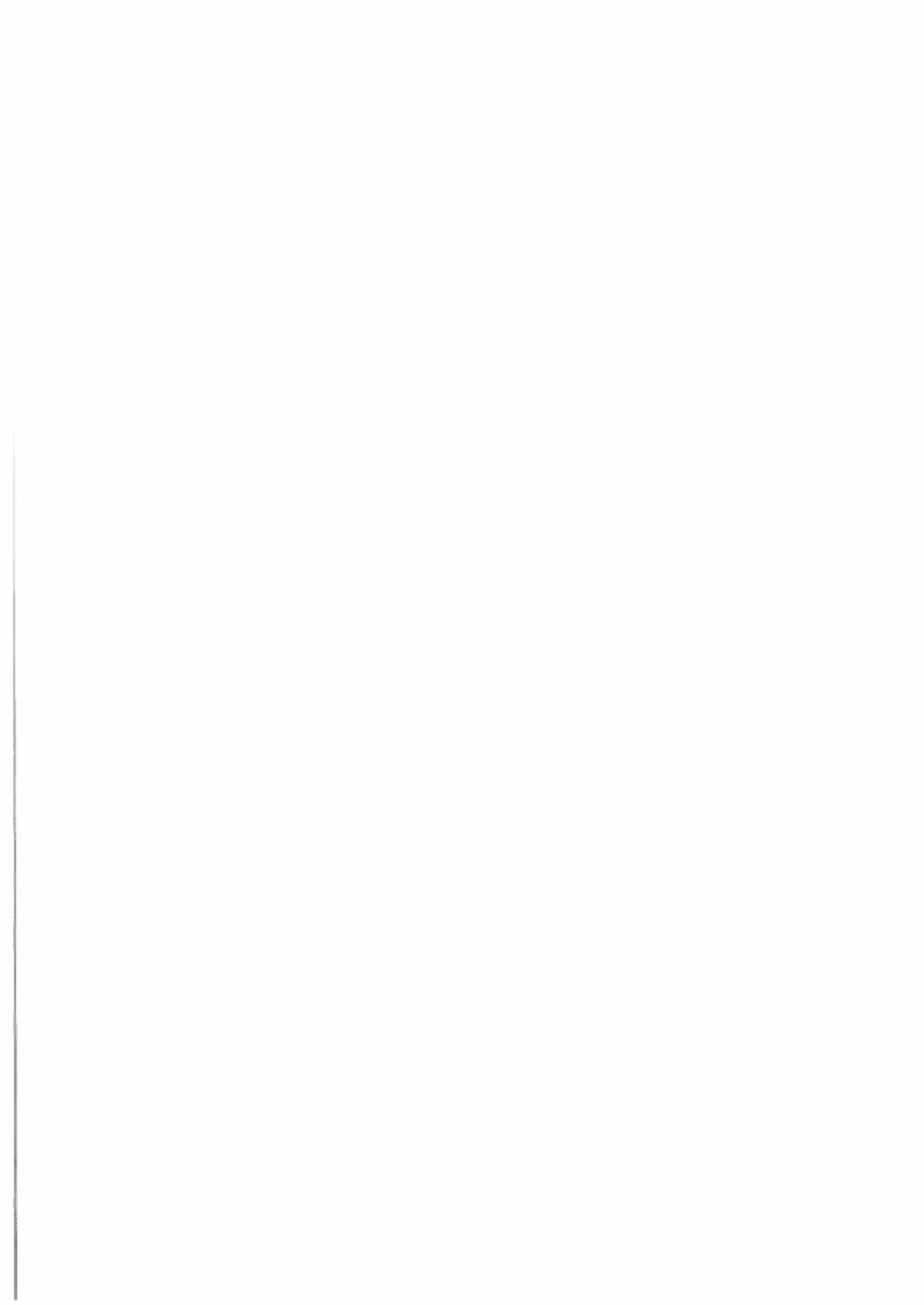
Distinguished delegates

As a country embarking on the nuclear power generation programme, Bangladesh attaches highest priority to nuclear security and safety in its upcoming nuclear installations. Bangladesh requested for an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission to bring our NPP into line with the nuclear security standards. The first mission was conducted in 2011 by the IAEA to review and update the IAEA/Bangladesh Integrated Work Plan for nuclear power infrastructure development. The expert team conducted a follow-up INIR mission in May this year to assess the progress and assist in prioritizing further infrastructure development activities. The team concluded that Bangladesh had made manifested progress by initiating its actions responding to all recommendations and suggestions made in its 1st Review mission. I am pleased to note that our designated nuclear power plant site has already been declared as a Key- Point-Installation and necessary measure to ensure security of the site has been already put in place.

Bangladesh also considers human resources are the main pillar of nuclear security as nuclear operational accidents are related mainly to human factor. All-the-more, with the advancement of information and communication technology the cyber-attack poses a serious threat to the security of nuclear facilities and physical protection of nuclear materials. We have been working closely with IAEA and our Supplier of Nuclear technology with a view to developing required capacity in these fields before we commission our NPP.

Our country is implementing the Integrated Work Plan for national infrastructure as developed jointly with the IAEA following its guidelines. In implementing Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) project, Bangladesh is attaching special priority to the issues of radiological protection as well as nuclear safety and security.

Bangladesh has established Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA), 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. Furthermore, 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 principled position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.



Mr. President
Distinguished Delegates,

As we address the issue of nuclear security, we cannot deny the fact that the issues of nuclear security and of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are intertwined. The lasting deadlock in the Conference of Disarmament, along with the lack of consensus in the last NPT review Conference, the pending entry into force of the CTBT and similar standoff being experienced in United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), all these are continuing to make the majority of the international community more and more frustrated day by day, as the progress in nuclear disarmament appears a distant goal in near future. Bangladesh has constitutional obligations with regard to general and complete disarmament, and believes that nuclear weapon is the biggest security threat for the whole humankind, as its very existence poses the risk of total destruction. Therefore, effective implementation of concrete measures leading to a nuclear weapon free world is an inevitable requirement for international community to ensure a world safe for our next generations.

As terrorist threats persist, nuclear and radioactive materials are still vulnerable, and the international nuclear security architecture continues to be fragmented and predominantly based on non-binding measures. Above all, there is no obligatory and comprehensive system that would hold states accountable for their nuclear security commitments and require them to share necessary information. Therefore, this Nuclear Security Conference presents us with an opportunity to chart a new direction of cooperation that would comprehensively address underlying challenges and highlight steps that can be taken together to minimize the use of highly-enriched uranium, secure vulnerable nuclear materials, counter nuclear smuggling and deter, detect, and disrupt attempts at nuclear terrorism.

Distinguished Delegates,

As I conclude, I once more reiterate Bangladesh's firm commitments to our continued works towards nuclear security both at national and global levels, while expressing our hope that the outcomes of the Conference would further contribute to a strengthened global nuclear security architecture that is comprehensive, is based on international standards, builds confidence in nations' nuclear security implementation, and results in continuous intensified nuclear security efforts. We also wish that this triennial conference would turn out to be another stronger international fabric to make sure that nuclear security is at the top of our agenda and that nuclear energy is safer tomorrow than it is today and also safeguarded from misuse by the people who want to harm others.

I thank you all.

