



# Bangladesh

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**Statement by  
His Excellency Architect Yeafesh Osman  
Hon'ble Minister  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of General Conference of IAEA  
Vienna, 17-21 September 2018**

**Madam President Excellency Marta Ziakova  
Acting Director General of IAEA Ms. Mary Alice Hayward  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates**

Good afternoon.

Madam President, let me begin with congratulating you and other members of the bureau, for your election. We are confident that under your able guidance, this session of the General Conference will have meaningful deliberations and important decisions. I assure you of my delegation's full support. I also thank the outgoing President and bureau members for their significant contribution.

I also take this opportunity to extend my heartiest thanks to the Director General Amano, who is not present with us for this session, for his exemplary leadership in running IAEA successfully. My delegation and I personally pray for the speedy recovery of Mr. Amano and for his early return to Vienna to assume his responsibilities. I thank the IAEA secretariat for the excellent arrangements and documentation for this session.

## **Madam President,**

It is indeed an honour for me to participate in the IAEA General Conference for the 9<sup>th</sup> time. On the agenda items to be discussed during this session, we align with the position of G77 and China. In our national capacity, I would like to add the following.

Bangladesh has always supported IAEA's mandated role. Our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expresses her deep appreciation regarding the cooperation that IAEA extends to Bangladesh. As part of this expanding collaboration, Director General Amano visited Bangladesh last year.

## **Distinguished Delegates,**

Bangladesh is aspiring to become a higher middle-income country by 2021 and a front ranking developed nation by 2041 through implementing its Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, daughter of the father of our nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina. We believe that peaceful use of atomic energy in various sectors with the support of IAEA will contribute to accelerating our socio-economic development as well as achieving the sustainable development goals by the year 2030.

## **Excellencies,**

Our Government has considered nuclear energy as a safe, environment-friendly and economically viable source of electricity generation. In the pursuit of materializing our long cherished dream for building nuclear power plant,

we have started construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the first NPP of the country, under bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Russian Federation. I am happy to inform you that we have stepped into the main phase of Rooppur NPP construction. On receiving Design and Construction License from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority, the First Concrete of Unit 1 & 2 of the NPP was poured on 30 November 2017 and 14 July 2018 respectively.

For implementing Rooppur NPP, we are closely working with IAEA. We are implementing the Integrated Work Plan for national infrastructure developed with the support of IAEA following the guidelines of the Agency. We have already started recruiting necessary personnel and their training for safe operation and maintenance of NPP. In this regard, we also express our gratitude to our trusted friends, Russian Federation and India, for their assistance and cooperation in training of personnel and sharing of experience.

**Madam President,**

While implementing NPP project, we attach top priority to the issues of radiological protection as well as nuclear safety and security. An independent Regulatory Authority has been established to regulate and oversee all the safety aspects and physical protection of nuclear materials and installations, waste safety, transport safety of radioactive material as well as emergency preparedness and response.

Our nuclear power generation programme is solidly anchored at our firm position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Bangladesh is one of the first countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons last year. We urge the global community to strengthen and

effectively implement the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Through the Technical Cooperation (TC) programme, the Agency has been cooperating and assisting Bangladesh in human resource development and capacity building for introduction of nuclear techniques in various sectors of the country. The development of human resources through TC projects constitutes a part of the success story in our country. We hope that such support in various sectors from the IAEA would continue in future.

### **Madam President,**

We consider the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) to be a powerful tool to promote research and development activities in using nuclear energy for peaceful purpose. 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.

I would like to conclude wishing this session will be successful and it will shape 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.