



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Statement

by

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at

The International Ministerial Conference

on

Nuclear Science and Technology:

Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges

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In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam/Mr. President,

Mr. Director General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a distinct pleasure for me to join all of you for this august event. Allow me, dear Co-Chairs, to offer our sincere felicitations on your deserved election and wish you success in steering the deliberations of this high-level meeting towards a fruitful, forward-looking outcome.

Excellencies,

The importance of this meeting cannot be overstated; the world is at a critical juncture; the inevitable trend of rising demand for nuclear applications, along with the similar rising preference for increased reliance on clean and safe sources are all facts of our life; climatic challenges are on the rise as is the challenging diseases like cancer; hunger and malnutrition throughout the world are becoming acute as is the water reservoir and public health and safety. Overall, the appearance of challenges is outpacing the appearance of partnership to address them by utilizing the technological advances.

There is, therefore, a dire need for the international community to collectively take steps to address the emerging challenges.

For example, healthcare issues such as communicable and non-communicable diseases and new emerging symptoms do not recognize boundaries, nor the consequences of climate change; they spread like a fire and incurs costs not on one, but on all of us. Turning blind eyes to these challenging issues is not a viable option for any country, because in the long run, it will certainly backfire on all of us.

We are living on a shared globe; therefore, we will have a shared destiny, as we have had a shared history; thus, addressing such a situation requires a shared vision, implementation of which demands a shared responsibility and accountability.

Distinguished Delegates,

There are still hopes that through endeavors initiated and coordinated by the international organizations, such as the Agency, such corroding elements of the quality of life on the globe would be controlled at minimum, and mitigated at best.

The areas within the realm of peaceful nuclear activities, falling under the IAEA's umbrella, can certainly be strengthened by our collective efforts and cooperation. We believe the existing international-multilateral institutions enjoy the statutory legitimacy and the general capacity to help preserve and solidify our collective

accomplishments and move forward, notwithstanding the barriers and impediments created along the way.

The Agency, as per its Statute, is mandated to assist Member States in developing the peaceful use of nuclear energy indiscriminately. The Agency is also entitled to strengthen the area of technical cooperation with due consideration for member states' needs and priorities, and as such, to help them achieve their Sustainable Development Goals through sharing of knowledge and experience and transfer of technology and equipment without any types of discrimination and political objectives. To this end, establishing a “Data Sharing and Collaboration Network” under the auspices of the IAEA, is of great significance as a suitable tool to meet the needs of the IAEA member States by increasing regional and international nuclear cooperation in various areas of peaceful nuclear technology.

Excellencies,

This Conference is entitled “Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges” in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy. The world has been witnessing substantial scientific and technological progress in this field. The positive potentials, as well as the imperative for cooperation towards their effective realization, hardly need to be emphasized. Collective endeavors, such as our meeting here today, represent the common will and wish of all of us to take stock of the achievements, coming to terms with developments, and exploring

common solutions for the existing and emerging challenges along the way.

In this regard, having a well-defined roadmap would be of great significance for identifying the needs and the challenges, and defining the necessary means of implementation. Here, I'd like to explore a little more some of the relevant issues, as following:

1. Identifying the needs and priorities of member States;
2. Identifying the technical, legal and commercial challenges;
3. Transformational change of concepts from “restrictive concept of cooperation” to “synergetic one”; it is necessary to redefine issues related to safety, security and safeguards in a way that the synergies established among them, in a complementary manner, would enhance the development and sharing of nuclear science and technology in the interest of streamlining the application of nuclear science and technology in addressing the needs and priorities of the member States. The current restrictive approach wouldn't contribute to the whole objectives of the Agency.
4. Avoiding politicization of technical issues; it is important to ensure that member States are entitled to have free access to peaceful nuclear technologies, in order to strike a balance between the rights and obligations of the membership in the Agency.
5. Disentangling issues related to Nuclear Safety from any binding threads and pre-conditions, due to the trans-boundary nature of nuclear accidents;

6. Development of International cooperation;
7. Facilitation of transfer of technology and knowhow to developing countries;
8. Strengthening the cooperative networks between the member States, especially with the developing countries;
9. Elimination of barriers for safe and cost-effective utilization of nuclear science and technology, including restrictive policies and regimes;
10. Establishment of an information platform about the needs defined by, and the capabilities and potentials to address those needs available by the member States;
11. Strengthening the resource allocation, i.e. financial, technical, and human resources.

As for Iran, in light of the traditional reliance of the Iranian economy on fossil fuels, it is an imperative in our policies and priorities to address the environmental concerns in line with the requirements of sustainable development, and to work on safe and clean energies. To this end, currently Iran has one unit of 1000 MW operable nuclear power plant, and in order to achieve its long term strategic target, two additional units of 1000 MW are under construction in Bushehr by the cooperation of the Russian company Rosatom. We have also been seriously thinking about increasing investment in Small Modular Reactors, especially for remote areas and the areas already facing water scarcity. In addition to the

production of clean energy, we also have to plan for and meet other rising demands in such other areas as health, medicine, water, food and agriculture, and the manufacturing industry in general.

We believe the trend of the progress Iran has achieved thus far in the field of nuclear science and technology will help us make significant advances in these areas in the coming years, especially once supported by enhanced external cooperation, as addressed and emphasized in Annex III of JCPOA.

When we are talking about Annex III of JCPOA, it would be a remiss if no reference is made to its current situation around it. Our meeting here in Vienna on a matter of multilateral nature and of significance to the international community, is taking place under a quite peculiar international circumstance. The very foundation of multilateralism, as a deeply and widely cherished collective achievement of the international community, is under serious attack. Such an onslaught against the multilateral efforts and its respected norms, as manifested during the past two years, is as mistakable as it is even dangerous.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that the status of implementation of the JCPOA is becoming a litmus test for the evaluation of the feasibility of implementation of the IAEA Statute, particularly its Articles II and III, not to name the credibility of the NPT.

It is noteworthy that on areas of expected external cooperation, Iran, on its part, is willing and prepared to share its experience and achievements with other Member States, with emphasis on the neighboring countries.

Madam/Mr. President,

To sum it up, drawing on the scientific and technological achievements, and heartened by the fact that the trend of progress in science and technology will continue, we should be able to utilize the opportunity at this Conference to turn it into an important milestone in the field of nuclear activity and industry. A strong, forward-looking, and clear-sighted statement, with a well-defined set of practical, doable, and affordable policies and measures, will surely be a step in the right direction.

To conclude, let me wish you, dear Co-Chairs, and the Ministerial Conference, utmost success in the days ahead. I tend to believe that we can – collectively – work towards actual and effective facilitation and promotion of the transfer of advanced nuclear science and technology on a global scale, especially to developing countries, where they are acutely needed.

Thank you for your attention.