

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen!

Russia highly appreciates the activity of IAEA and its role in promoting "peaceful atom" in every aspects of life. We strongly support Agency's activities in the field of nuclear science and technology, participate in virtually all areas of activity and provide our knowledge, experience, educational opportunities and experimental facilities to promote this important industry. We are convinced that nuclear and radiation technologies, based on solid foundation of science, will make a significant contribution to achievement of Sustainable Development Goals of mankind, including problems of climate and power supply.

The strategic goal of Russian nuclear industry is to ensure the innovative development of our country based on the expansion of application of nuclear technologies in various sectors of the economy.

The focus is traditionally set on the development of nuclear energy technologies. We are convinced that the future of nuclear energy is inextricably linked with the closure of the nuclear fuel cycle. Russian scientists have already made a significant contribution to the development and commercialization of this direction, demonstrating to the world the operability and attractiveness of its key element - fast neutron reactor of 4th generation.

This was the basis for the development and implementation of the Breakthrough project with a demonstration of technical solutions for existing challenges, nuclear power industry faces today: critical decision to increase the safety of nuclear power generation is the transition to "natural safety" reactor systems and the resolution of issues related to the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

Undoubtedly, one of the components of new technological platform is the development of low and medium power sector of nuclear power industry. Russia is implementing a project to create the world's first floating nuclear thermal power plant Akademik Lomonosov with 40 MW ship reactors (KLT-40). The loading of nuclear fuel in Murmansk has already been completed, and next year the floating power unit

will go to the place of its primary deployment, the city of Pevek (Chukotka region of the Far North).

Yet another area of application of nuclear technology is icebreaking fleet. Modern logistics systems require an increase in transportation speed, and one of the most promising projects is the development of the Northern Sea Route. Russian scientists and technologists have developed a new type of icebreaker with RITM-200 reactor units, which has a higher turbine capacity and allows breaking ice cover up to 2.6 m. The first icebreaker of "Arctic" project has already been set afloat, commissioning is scheduled for 2019. The construction of three more icebreakers of similar class is planned and the "Leader" project is being implemented with RITM-400 reactor installations and penetration capability of ice up to 4 meters thick.

Without arrangement of a new scientific expanse of high-powered research reactors, technological development of nuclear and related industries is impossible. In 2015, the construction of a high-power fast neutron research reactor, MFRR, started on the territory of the Russian center NIIAR. This reactor is included in the list of facilities available in the future for use by countries in the framework of the IAEA program on International Centers based on Research Reactors ("ICERR").

Russia not only builds up its own scientific infrastructure, but also helps countries set up their national scientific and educational schools on the basis of nuclear science and technology centers (CNST). These centers provide training, development of science and medicine, create basis for the application of radiation technologies in industry and agriculture. Decisions have already been made and work is underway to organize the CNST in Mongolia, Vietnam, Zambia, Azerbaijan, and Bolivia.

Achievements of nuclear science are in demand not only in traditional markets, but also in innovative technology markets in adjacent fields of activity. The key ones include the superconducting industry, water quality management (including desalination), medical equipment, electronics, security equipment, laser, acceleration and plasma technologies. The created technologies are applicable in virtually all

spheres of production and utilities, human life, which makes it possible to quickly capitalize nuclear innovations in the market.

A key direction in the development of life science is nuclear medicine. For individual isotopes, Russia supplies from 50 to 100% of world consumption. Russian institutes are developing the production of synthesis modules and generating systems of cyclotron radiopharmaceuticals for PET diagnostics, mastering the mass production of gamma-therapeutic complexes for brachytherapy, creating a model range of medical facilities for neutron and neutron capture therapy, new methods of proton and ion therapy. New technologies for production of radioactive isotopes of lutetium, cobalt, molybdenum, etc. are being developed.

But these are technologies of today. Russia is a member of international promising fundamental projects. We should note active participation of Russia in the ITER project for the construction of fusion reactor in France, FAIR on construction of the antiproton accelerator and heavy ions in Germany, projects implemented in large hadron collider in Switzerland.

Russian sectoral scientific conference held last spring by Rosatom together with the Kurchatov Institute, the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Education, formulated a number of important conclusions.

Firstly, the development of nuclear technology in the long term perspective is impossible without fundamental and applied research.

Secondly, in modern conditions it is necessary to expand work in such areas as nuclear-hydrogen energy, plasma technologies and controlled thermonuclear fusion, additive technologies, as well as the development and introduction of new materials and technological solutions.

Thirdly, in order to have breakthrough progression, we all need to unite our efforts. Experimental facilities available in Russia, as well as in different countries, scientific infrastructure and, finally, professional competencies should be put together, complementing and strengthening each other when solving large-scale scientific tasks.

In this regard, we welcome the first Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology held under the auspices of the IAEA. We hope that this conference will become a regular platform for high-level dialogue in order to ensure integration of nuclear science and applications into the national strategies of the participating States to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.