



**SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR KHOJESTA FANA  
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*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**Madam President,  
Acting Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure for me to join you, here today, at the 63rd General Conference of the Agency. I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you, **Madam President**, on your election. Furthermore, let me congratulate the hard work of the **Acting Director General** on his outstanding leadership for running IAEA at this sensitive time.

Let me also pay tribute to the late **Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano** for his strong leadership over the past years and express our heartfelt condolences for his passing away. Afghanistan is grateful to IAEA, under the Director General Amano's leadership, for its significant support to the country.

**Madam President,**

Let me thank and appreciate the **efforts** of the IAEA for their cooperation and support to Afghanistan. We signed today a very important Framework **for the next six years for Afghanistan**. This represents a key success for this Conference and for Afghanistan.

I am convinced that this Framework will **serve as a key instrument for the design, review, and implementation** of Afghanistan technical cooperation projects over the next **six years** and a new milestone of fruitful technical cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan and the IAEA.

We kindly request from IAEA members, in particular the regional members, to pay special attention to Afghanistan and to continue supporting us in areas of **capacity building and training Afghan stakeholders**.

I would like to conclude by expressing once again my most **sincere appreciation** to International Atomic Energy Agency for their cooperation and support and we are grateful to our friends and allies for their contribution and assistance.

On this note, may I now hand over to **Dr. Tahir Sahran**, Director General of Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission, and to respectfully invite him to deliver his National Statement on behalf of the Islami Republic of Afghanistan.

**Thank you!**



AFGHANISTAN

**STATEMENT**

Delivered by Dr. Tahir Shaaran, Director General of  
Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission

Head of Delegation

**IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**  
63<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session

16-20 September 2019

## **Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I express my deepest condolences to Director-General Yukiya Amano's family, friends and all staff members of the IAEA and the people and government of Japan.

Afghanistan is grateful to IAEA, under the Director General Amano's leadership, for its significant support to the country. Without doubt, Mr Amano was a great advocator for security, nuclear non-proliferation regime and peaceful use of nuclear technologies to achieve a more peaceful world. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

### **Madam President,**

Let me begin by congratulating your Excellency, on your election as the president of this year's General Conference. We are confident that under your leadership this conference will be very successful and productive. From the beginning of the conference, the Afghanistan delegation has fully supported your leadership and will continue throughout the meeting.

Furthermore, let me congratulate the hard work of the Acting Director-General on his outstanding leadership for running IAEA at this sensitive time. Furthermore, my appreciation goes to the highly professional and dedicated team of the Agency's Secretariat for the efforts undertaken to prepare for this important conference.

### **Madam President,**

Since its establishment in 1957, the IAEA has played a very important role in promoting peace, security, development and

prosperity across the world through the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

As we are all aware, nuclear science and technology can help countries reduce poverty and hunger, manage water resources, generate electricity, treat diseases such as cancer and respond to climate change. However, these objectives can only be achieved if nuclear safety measures and nuclear security measures are taken into serious account by all member states. In particular, today where the world is drifting towards increased insecurity and violence, the Agency is facing a tremendously challenging situation in fully monitoring and controlling the use of nuclear energy to make sure that it is not used in a wrong way.

I believe that a worldwide agreement, global consensus and effective cooperation of member states with the Agency is essential in overcoming the problem of safe and secure use of nuclear energy for global sustainable development.

Being a state party to the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement and the NPT, Afghanistan strongly supports the establishment of a Nuclear- Weapons-Free-Zone in the Middle East, as a positive and complementary step towards achieving the United Nations' Nuclear-Weapons-Free-World objectives.

**Madam President,**

Although Afghanistan was among the first founding members of IAEA in 1957, due to war and conflict in the country, there has not been any cooperation between Afghanistan and IAEA for almost 3 decades. However, over the past few years, Afghanistan has managed to re-establish its interaction with

IAEA and benefit from the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme in different priority areas.

This programme has provided an excellent cooperation framework in areas such as human health, agriculture, human resources development in nuclear physics, as well as the establishment of a national regulatory authority.

Today we are happy to announce that a new Country Programme Framework for the period of 2019-2023 for Afghanistan has been signed at the margins of the IAEA General Conference. This Framework was prepared and completed by the joint efforts of the Agency Technical Cooperation Department and the Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission.

This signed Framework will contribute directly and cost-effectively to national priorities and goals in line with the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework.

The Framework will serve as a key instrument for strengthening technical cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan and the Secretariat. It provides an excellent cooperation framework in four mutually agreed areas, namely:

- Radiation Safety Infrastructure
- Food and Agriculture
- Human Health and Nutrition
- Human Capital Development

With the assistance of IAEA, the Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission, the main implementing partner in Afghanistan, along with other relevant agencies in the country, will be fully committed to implementing cooperation in the four national priority areas.

**Madam President,**

Afghanistan's Nuclear Energy Act, which was supported by the Agency and drafted by the Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission, was approved by Afghan parliament in 2017. As a result, the Afghanistan National Nuclear Regulatory Authority has been established for protecting public health and safety-related to the use of nuclear science and technology. Our Regulatory body has made a great effort to implement Afghanistan's Nuclear Energy Act, especially in the area of issuing license for nuclear activity, monitoring facilities that use ionization radiation such as hospitals and ports, and drafting relevant regulations.

As a result of their efforts, at the beginning of this year, our radiation protection regulation has been approved by Cabinet and has been signed by the President of Afghanistan. Furthermore, the first annual national report on radiation facilities across the country has been recently published.

In the area of health, the establishment of a Radiology Diagnostic Centre, and Radiotherapy centre are projects with high importance and relevance in the country. However, despite all good wills, up to now, there has not been any notable progress in this area. Afghanistan still does not have any nuclear medicine centre in the country and every year thousands of people travel abroad for cancer treatment. We hope that with the support of Agency, its member states, and the effective collaboration of all stakeholders in Afghanistan, we can soon overcome this problem and establish our first centre at Aliabad hospital.

**Madam President,**

The current security situation in Afghanistan is such that large areas of the country are controlled by insurgent groups and national and international terrorist groups are active across the country. As a result, we have a serious concern about the illegal transportation of nuclear materials through Afghanistan by these groups.

In light of this, we believe that such illegal activities will make the current situation more complex and may put the lives of thousands of people in danger. Thus we sincerely request IAEA members to pay careful attention to this matter.

**Madam President,**

In conclusion, Afghanistan is grateful to IAEA for its significant support to the country, for providing training and workshops for our scientists, and supporting our national projects. We kindly request from IAEA members, in particular, the regional members, to pay special attention to Afghanistan and to continue supporting us in areas of capacity building and training our scientists.

In my view, the effective utilization of nuclear science and technology in medical, agricultural, industrial, energy and other peaceful areas will only be achieved through transparency, honesty and strong cooperation amongst IAEA members.

Let us all help the Agency in promoting peace and sustainable development for all nations worldwide through our regional and international cooperation.

**Thank you!**