

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (Vienna, 10 – 14 Feb 2020)

Mr. President,

The third International Conference on Nuclear Security is a reaffirmation of the international community's continued commitment to the objective of strengthening nuclear security. The Conference is also an expression of support for the central role of the IAEA in leading international efforts on nuclear security in accordance with its mandate.

Nuclear security is a journey and not a destination. It demands constant vigilance, perpetual preparedness and zero complacency to ensure that nuclear and radioactive materials do not fall into wrong hands. Pakistan shares international community's concerns over the potential malicious use of nuclear materials and their devastating social, economic as well as environmental consequences. We, therefore, accord the utmost importance to nuclear security as a prime national responsibility.

Mr. President,

Over the years, Pakistan has put in place a comprehensive national nuclear security regime which is regularly reviewed and updated in the light of national obligations, IAEA guidance documents and international best practices. Relying on modern technological solutions and the requisite human resource, it is fully capable of preventing and responding to the entire spectrum of challenges. Pakistan has participated in and contributed to several international processes and mechanisms aimed at strengthening nuclear security.

We are party to important international legal instruments including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment. Pakistan has enacted "Regulations on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Installations PAK/925", which is in line with the IAEA Information Circular 225/Revision5.

Pakistan successfully implemented Nuclear Security Action Plan in collaboration with IAEA. As part of this Plan, physical protection measures at various Nuclear Medical Centres, a Nuclear Power Plant and other facilities have been upgraded.

We have also subscribed to the IAEA's Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its two supplementary guidance documents.

In Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), we have an independent entity which ensures compliance of all stakeholders with a stringent regulatory framework. In doing so, it closely follows the relevant IAEA guidance documents. Our comprehensive and stringent national export control regime also contributes to the objective of nuclear security.

In 2019, Pakistan joined Nuclear Security Contact Group. Going ahead, hosting of an International Physical Protection Advisory Service Mission and accession to the International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) remain under our active consideration.

Mr. President,

On the occasion of this important conference, we have published a booklet giving details of Pakistan's national nuclear security regime and various measures that we have taken in the recent years. It is available at the website of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry and will also be issued as an IAEA information circular.

Mr. President,

Pakistan strongly supports the IAEA's central role in providing assistance to Member States, upon their request, for enhancing the security of nuclear and radioactive materials and in coordinating international efforts as new challenges and opportunities emerge. We believe that the Agency's undiminished focus on the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies, in particular through technical cooperation with the developing countries, can foster better appreciation and ownership for its activities in the field of nuclear security.

In order to meet its increasing energy needs, Pakistan aims to expand its nuclear power capacity to 40,000 MWe, while remaining consistent with international safety and security obligations and best practices.

In the months and years ahead, Pakistan looks forward to working closely with the IAEA and its Member States to ensure that nuclear security continues to receive the leadership level attention, appropriate salience in the Agency's work, unfailing vigilance at the national level and robust international cooperation. We are

confident that this Conference will mark an important contribution to the achievement of these objectives.

Mr. President,

I have delivered an abridged version of our national statement to respect the time limit. We have requested that the complete version of our national statement be uploaded at the Conference's webpage.

Thank you