
Statement by
His Excellency Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
at the 64th Session of General Conference of IAEA
Vienna, 21-25 September 2020

President of the General Conference,

Director General Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi,

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good day.

Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you on your election as the President of the 64th General Conference.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh deeply appreciates IAEA's serious commitment to its mandate. It is highly commendable that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency has continued its valuable work under the able leadership of the new Director General, despite many difficulties.

We acknowledge with thanks the assistance rendered by the Agency to Bangladesh and many other Member States in their efforts to address the current COVID-19 pandemic through the technical cooperation project INT0098. We express our strong support to the Agency's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action project, which would be an important vehicle for assistance with Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

Mr. President,

We highly value Agency's continued support to Bangladesh through technical cooperation projects. We note with satisfaction that Bangladesh is developing nuclear science, technology and peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the areas of energy, health, food security and safety for socio-economic development of our country, which align well with our national Visions 2021 and 2041 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, including the

achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. So, we are determined to take the collaboration with IAEA to a higher level.

Mr. President,

We consider nuclear energy as a safe, environment-friendly and economically viable source of electricity generation. The construction work of our Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is going on despite the current pandemic, strictly maintaining safety protocols. We expect that Unit 1 of the Plant will be connected to the national Grid in 2023. For the Rooppur NPP, we are working closely with IAEA.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh is firmly committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in compliance with the relevant safety, safeguard and security measures.

We commend the Agency and the Member States for organizing the third International Conference on Nuclear Security 2020 and adopting Ministerial Declaration. At the same time, we are expecting a substantial progress at the next NPT Review Conference.

Mr. President,

Lastly, Bangladesh reiterates its firm support to the mandate and activities of the Agency for a better world through peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

I wish the 64th General Conference of the IAEA a grand success.

I thank you, Mr. President.