

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Your Excellencies and heads of delegations,

Your Excellency Mr Director General,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

Allow me at the outset to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to all the Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency for having confidence in me and my country to preside over the work of the 65th session of the IAEA General Conference. I likewise wish to thank the members of the Middle East and South Asia Group for this nomination.

I should like to say how proud I am to take over the presidency from a fellow Arab country, and I wish to express, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the Member States, our thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, for his distinguished tenure as President of the previous session of the General Conference. I would also like to thank His Excellency the Director General, Mr. Rafael Grossi, and the entire staff of the Agency for their professional and valuable work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We meet to discuss items on our agenda that are of importance because they highlight the IAEA's important role in putting into practice the concept of 'Atoms for Peace and Development', in transferring knowledge, and in maximizing the benefit of nuclear applications of all kinds. The items on our agenda also highlight the interest in developing and strengthening the concepts of nuclear security and safety at all levels and maintaining verification systems that are considered an essential part of the non-proliferation regime.

In addition, our attendance here in person symbolizes the beginning of the gradual return to normal life after the Corona pandemic, which has cast a shadow over every single aspect of our work and everyday lives. We take pleasure as we return to this attendance in person that has been so sorely missed in international forums, and in so doing we find we are motivated to continue our shared work of improving the standard of living for our peoples using the tools of technology and knowledge. Indeed, the Agency's work provides one of the best examples of this.

Allow me here to commend the efforts of the Agency and its staff to continue its general operations without interruptions or delays, to support Member States in dealing with the repercussions of this pandemic, and to devise new mechanisms to ensure the continuity of the Agency's work. Allow me also to note new initiatives, such as the ZODIAC project to control zoonotic diseases. This is a valuable addition to the Agency's wide range of activities aimed at harnessing nuclear technology in the service of humanity. It is fitting that this year's Scientific Forum will highlight this promising initiative by bringing together distinguished heads of international organizations, leading scientists and prominent experts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The State of Kuwait believes in the importance of multilateral action and in the importance of supporting science and technology. It attaches the utmost significance to the Agency's pivotal role in this context and in contributing to human development and international peace and security. Our country has been a dedicated supporter of the Agency's activities, programmes and initiatives, and we stress the need for the Member States to make available to the Agency all the resources it needs in order to carry out its assigned tasks to the fullest degree.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I look forward to your support and that of the Director General and the Secretariat in conducting this session. I also assure you that I stand ready to cooperate with everyone, so that our discussions may proceed smoothly and easily, with the aim of making the General Conference a success, to the benefit all.