

Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation,
Director General of State Corporation “ROSATOM”
Mr. Alexey Likhachev at the 65th session of the IAEA General Conference
(Vienna, 20 September 2021)

Distinguished Mr. Chairman! Dear Mr. Director General! Ladies and gentleman!

For the second year in a row, we are compelled to work under strict epidemic restrictions. Yet I am sure that the 65th General Conference be efficient and successful in current format just as well.

I (IAEA)

It is very important that in challenging conditions caused by the pandemic, the Agency, under the leadership of Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi, **continues to completely fulfill its statutory functions.**

Safeguards are applied to verify the use of nuclear material solely for peaceful purposes. The Agency provides support to States in developing their national nuclear infrastructures. Work continues to elaborate a regulatory framework for the safe and sustainable development of peaceful atom.

Russia provides the Secretariat with expert and financial support in all the main areas of its activities. We will continue to do this in the future.

We fully support Mr. Grossi's initiative to **launch a new interdepartmental project on small modular reactors.** The next logical step would be to hold the IAEA's International Conference on small modular reactor technologies. We are ready to host such an event in Russia.

For us, the **development of small-scale power generation is a priority.** The world's only floating nuclear power plant with two small reactors is already successfully operating in Chukotka. Four modernized floating power units will also be built there. In the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) we are implementing a project for the construction of small NPP based on the RITM-200N reactor plant.

II (Nuclear energy development and Russia)

We are confident that recent years have convincingly demonstrated the relevance of the nuclear industry throughout the twenty-first century.

For us, the year 2020 ended on a high note. **An absolute record of electricity generation has been set – almost 216 billion kWh.** The highest indicator achieved by all the USSR Nuclear Power Plants in 1988 has been surpassed.

We do not stop there. In March this year, another Power Unit of the Leningrad NPP, the fourth Unit of Generation 3+ in Russia, was commissioned for commercial operation.

We continue to promote the development of nuclear energy in partner countries. We focus on the tasks of their long-term and sustainable development. In March, works started on Power Unit No. 3 of Akkuyu NPP in Turkey. In May, the construction of Units No. 7 and 8 of Tianwan NPP, as well as Units No. 3 and 4 of Xudapu NPP, was launched in China. In June, the construction of Power Unit 5 of Kudankulam NPP in India began. Unit No. 1 of Belarus NPP was commissioned for commercial operation in early June, and the construction of Unit 2 of this Plant will be completed by the end of the year. We continue the construction works in Bangladesh, Hungary, Egypt.

I would like to emphasize that in Russia we have proceeded to designing the image of a new technological platform for nuclear **energy with the closed nuclear fuel cycle.** It will stipulate multifold amplification of the fuel base and settling of issues related to spent nuclear fuel management.

In June this year, the construction of a Nuclear Power Unit with a fast neutron reactor was commenced in Seversk, Tomsk region. For the first time in the world practice, Nuclear Power Plants and on-site closed nuclear fuel cycle facilities will be built on the same site. This is a milestone event for the global nuclear energy industry. The IAEA Director General Mr. Grossi and our other partners took part in the ceremony.

However, peaceful atom is not only about energy, it also implies **non-power technologies** that contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Among our offers to interested countries are Centres of Nuclear Science and Technology. Already this year, facilities of the first and second series of such a centre will be commissioned in Bolivia.

The construction of a Multi-Purpose Fast Neutron Research Reactor MBIR is in full swing. On its basis, the World Centre of Competences in Fast Reactors will be established under the auspices of the IAEA. We invite our international partners to join the project.

III (Green Agenda)

Nuclear power is a source of low-carbon energy; it is the most important tool for combatting global climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions over the entire life cycle of NPPs are comparable to those from hydro, wind and solar generation, and they are 70 times lower than coal-fired thermal power plants.

It is hard to overestimate the scale of the contribution that nuclear energy brings to the fight against climate change. Active Nuclear Power Plants around the world account for savings in greenhouse gas emissions commensurate with the absorbing capacity of all the forests on the planet.

In Russia, there is no doubt that modern nuclear energy complies with the principles of sustainable development and provides the economy with stable and clean energy. The highest safety standards, including those established by the IAEA standards, guarantee that there is no negative impact from nuclear facilities on human health and the environment. In Russia, this year, the "sustainability" of nuclear energy will be enshrined in legislation – in the national Taxonomy of "green" projects.

We are confident that the Agency, as the key professional organization, should play the central role **in the efforts on consolidating the “green” status of nuclear energy. We are ready to render the necessary support.**

It is very important that the topic of the nuclear energy’s contribution to countering the climate change is properly voiced at the **major event of this year – the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.** We are thoroughly preparing for this event, and we look forward to an open and productive dialogue.

In Russia, we are already implementing specific projects to reduce emissions in various economy sectors using nuclear technologies. **And we are ready to closely cooperate with all the interested parties on this track, first of all, at the IAEA platform.** Therefore, I would like to end my speech by citing the words of the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin that he gave at the Leaders Summit on Climate in April this year: "The Russian Federation is genuinely interested in stepping up international cooperation so as to continue searching for the effective solutions to the problem of the climate change".

Thank you for your attention.