

Draft Statement by the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation
Sixty-Sixth Annual General Conference of the International Atomic
Energy Agency, September 2022

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning/Good afternoon

Firstly, like my fellow speakers, I wish to congratulate Excellency Ambassador Alessandro Cortese and other officers of the committee on election at the 66th Session of the IAEA General Conference and assure you of Pakistan's full support and cooperation.

Your Excellency,

Recent extreme weather events have again brought into light the greatest challenge facing humanity. In line with this, the Agency's move to organizing this General Conference as a Green Event is commendable. Heat waves, floods and droughts have further exasperated economic turmoil that most developing countries are facing due to high energy costs. Pakistan, is one of the top ten vulnerable countries to climate change. The ongoing catastrophic floods in Pakistan show an urgent need of global action to curb GHG emission. One third of the country is under water. The disaster has cost loss of life in thousands and economic loss of over 40 billion US dollars. The recent events also highlight the requirement of setting up a global fund to mitigate climatic disaster in developing countries which is crucial to reduce human suffering.

Global issues require global solutions, close and unrestricted cooperation and access to nuclear power is the need of the hour. In Pakistan, we are taking steps to limit our Green House Gas emissions. Pakistan's National energy mix is consistently re-evaluated. With the coming on line of the sixth operating nuclear reactor, the actual contribution of nuclear in the energy mix has increased to about 15%. Karachi Nuclear Power Plant K-3, this year has increased our nuclear power generation capacity to 3,530 MWe. We are striving to achieve more nuclear energy in future.

Apart from power generation, Pakistan is also reaping the benefits of nuclear technology in the areas of agriculture, human health, industry and environment. Pakistan, through its association with IAEA, is effectively utilizing nuclear science and technology towards attaining UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Nuclear technology is playing a key role in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has added one hospital to its fleet of 18 cancer hospitals, construction of one more is under way. These hospitals are catering for over one million patients annually. Pakistan has expressed its full support to the DG IAEA's 'Rays of Hope' initiative by offering Pakistan's expertise and facilities to impart training and share best practices with developing countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the world cognizant of the profound dangers associated with zoonotic diseases. IAEA's ZODIAC initiative aims to facilitate early detection and prevention of future Zoonotic outbreaks. Pakistan looks forward to contribute to the success of this programme through its laboratories at National Institute of Agriculture and Biology and National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering.

Pakistan is also keenly participating in the activities related to nuclear techniques for the control of plastic pollution (NUTEC Plastic) which is a major environmental challenge that poses a direct threat to our life and health.

Your Excellency,

Over the years, Pakistan has benefitted a great deal from the IAEA's Technical Cooperation programme. Pakistan-IAEA TC partnership works both ways. On one end, it has strengthened Pakistan's National capacity through TC activities while at the other end, Pakistan has extended its capabilities and expertise to support other Member States by hosting Fellowships, Scientific Visits and training courses / workshops under the auspices of IAEA. Pakistan has also signed a Practical Arrangement with Technical Cooperation Department in the area of peaceful uses of atomic energy. Pakistan has aligned its Technical Cooperation Programme with the IAEA's Medium-Term Strategy by designing and implementing comprehensive technical cooperation projects to achieve substantial outputs leading to sustainable development. One such project has been successfully implemented and three more projects for TC Cycle 2022-23 are underway in the areas of agriculture, human health and nuclear power. Pakistan is ready to share its experience of design and implementation of comprehensive National TC projects with other Member States through IAEA. Pakistan is also actively participating in regional technical cooperation and coordinated research activities.

Your Excellency

IAEA's initiative of Marie Curie Fellowship Programme aims at inspiring and supporting young women to pursue a career in the field of nuclear science and technology. Pakistan has

been supporting this initiative since its inception; under this programme, six women are completing their fully funded master's degree at Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS). Pakistan has offered to fund two international fellowships this year under this programme. PIEAS has also been declared as an IAEA Collaborating Centre and regional Member States can benefit from this collaborative center under the auspices of IAEA.

Your Excellency

Considering nuclear security as a National responsibility, Pakistan has developed a comprehensive nuclear security regime, which is regularly reviewed and updated in the light of Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 amendment (Amended CPPNM), IAEA guidance documents and international best practices.

Pakistan appreciates IAEA for successfully hosting first Review Conference of Amended CPPNM and notes with satisfaction that the Convention and its Amendment remain fully adequate to meet the present day nuclear security challenges. Going forward, the efforts of the Parties to the CPPNM and its Amendment should remain focused on its universalization and effective implementation at National level.

Pakistan applauds the Agency's assistance & support in the area of nuclear security. A Centre of Excellence in nuclear security is functioning to train the required manpower. These training facilities are available for other regional and international fellows.

Your Excellency

Pakistan is fully complying with its Safeguards obligations, and is committed to meet them as outlined in its safeguards agreements.

Pakistan emphasizes the goal of promoting and strictly adhering to diversity in the Agency's workforce with equitable and merit-based representation from developing countries.

Your Excellency,

Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) enjoys complete independence as a nuclear regulator and is sharing its expertise with other developing countries under the umbrella of IAEA. With the help of the Agency, regulations related to nuclear safety and security are continuously being up-dated and new regulations formulated. Pakistan has recently hosted a successful IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service Follow up Mission, which recognized improvement in Pakistan's safety and regulatory regime.

Pakistan greatly values the role of nuclear technology in socio-economic development of the Member States and will continue to cooperate with IAEA in advancing peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

I thank you, Mr. President.