

Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh
at the 67th Session of the General Conference of IAEA

Madam President,
Mr. Director General,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good day/Good evening,

Madam,

I want to begin by congratulating you on your election as the President of the 67th General Conference of IAEA. Bangladesh assures you of our full support and cooperation.

We also extend our appreciation to Director General, His Excellency, Rafael Mariano Grossi for his strong leadership, commitment and dedication to the Agency's work.

Madam,

Bangladesh views commitment to transparency as a fundamental principle of our peaceful nuclear program. We acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the IAEA to international peace, security and prosperity. We commend the Agency's continuous technical support to developing nations in various areas, such as healthcare, nutrition, food security, environmental and water resource management and electricity generation to help achieve their national development targets and the SDGs.

Madam,

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the government of Bangladesh has outlined the '**Smart Bangladesh Vision 2041.**' This vision aims to transform Bangladesh into a high-income, equitable, sustainable and developed country with smart citizens, a smart government a smart economy, smart energy and a smart society.

Energy security and implementing sustainable energy policies are our top priorities in the development of smart energy. Bangladesh recognizes nuclear energy as a vital component to provide clean energy and achieve sustainable development and carbon neutrality goals.

Madam,

The construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, comprising two VVER-1200 type power reactors, is a short-term goal for Bangladesh. We are on track to achieve this goal with the first fresh nuclear fuel expected to be delivered to the plant site by the end of September 2023. This milestone will mark Bangladesh's entry into the league of countries with peaceful nuclear power technology. We anticipate that the first unit will be connected to the grid next year, adding a significant source of energy to our portfolio. The second unit will become operational a year later.

With the Rooppur NPP, Bangladesh maintains the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. When fully operational, the two units will produce 2400 Megawatts of electricity. We appreciate the support of the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation, Rosatom for their commitment to this project despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and global political conditions.

Madam,

Bangladesh highly values its growing engagement with the IAEA. As newcomers in the nuclear industry, we are actively working to establish our nuclear infrastructure. We believe that the Agency's peer reviews and advisory missions will ensure the successful commissioning of the Rooppur NPP. We have already hosted five missions as part of the Integrated Work Plan and anticipate more in the coming year.

Finally Madam,

Bangladesh firmly believes in the positive potential of the IAEA to share the benefits of safe and secure nuclear technology applications. We look forward to continued meaningful cooperation and strong support for the Agency's mandate and activities, contributing to a better world through the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

I thank you, Madam.