

**Statement delivered by H.E. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Permanent
Representative of Nepal to the IAEA at the 67th General Conference of
the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, 25-29 September 2023**

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 67th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I also would like to extend sincere congratulations to the Director General Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi for his reappointment for another term. My delegation extends profound appreciation to him for the comprehensive report and for his valuable work.

Mr. President,

Nepal extends its sincere appreciation for the diligent efforts and remarkable achievements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in advancing the cause of utilizing nuclear science and technology for the promotion of safety, security, and global tranquility. The IAEA's invaluable contributions have significantly contributed to international peace and security.

Nepal is firmly committed to collaborating with the international community to bring about an end to the arms race and the complete disarmament of not only nuclear weapons but also biological, chemical, and other weapons of mass destruction. Central to Nepal's disarmament policy is the resolute pursuit of peaceful nuclear technology applications, staunch support for nuclear non-proliferation efforts, and unwavering dedication to nuclear disarmament.

As a committed party and active participant in key international treaties and protocols related to disarmament, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Small Quantity Protocol, Nepal firmly believes that the utilization of nuclear science and technology must strictly adhere to peaceful purposes as outlined within the robust Safeguards Framework established by the IAEA.

In line with the objectives of the IAEA, Nepal adopted long back National Nuclear Policy, 2007, which aims at regulating, controlling, and monitoring the use of nuclear energy as per IAEA guidelines; enhancing overall national welfare through the peaceful use of nuclear science; and taking sufficient safety measures for the development and use of nuclear energy by enhancing public awareness about benefits and consequences of it.

More recently we have also adopted Radioactive materials (use and regulation) Act, 2020 and Radioactive materials (use and regulation) Rules, 2022 in compliance with the IAEA Framework. Our commitments to the norms set by the IAEA are duly reflected in this legislation too.

Mr. President,

We hold in the highest regard the invaluable technical support and collaborative efforts extended to us by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since our partnership began in 2012 with the signing of the Technical Cooperation Agreement. Over the years, our joint endeavors have encompassed a diverse range of projects, many of which directly impact the well-being of the Nepali population and are closely aligned with the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We also support to the Agency's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project, which is an important tool in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic and beyond. We look forward to working closely with IAEA in this project which will help to strengthen the ability to prepare for, and respond to, any zoonotic diseases and outbreaks.

In fact, our strategic priorities and unwavering commitment are firmly anchored in the SDGs and our nation's 15th national plan. Our overarching objective is to enhance the quality of life and economic prospects of our citizens by harnessing the potential of peaceful nuclear applications. This vision prominently includes sectors such as agriculture, water and environmental management, healthcare, and the advancement of nuclear knowledge.

With the steadfast support and collaboration of the IAEA, we aim to foster progress and prosperity in Nepal, driven by the transformative power of nuclear science and technology in areas critical to the well-being of our people and the realization of sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The issue of sovereign equality of all member states in the IAEA and ensuring their rightful representations in all policy-making organs of the IAEA is an issue of utmost concern for Nepal. Keeping this issue unresolved for long in no way serves the noble purpose of the organization. I believe all member states, the Director General and the Secretariat will give due attention to solve this issue once and for all.

Finally, let me reiterate Nepal's commitment to supporting the activities of IAEA for a better world through peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We look forward to engaging constructively for fruitful discussions during the deliberation of the Conference and wish for its successful completion.

Thank you!