

2023

Dear Mr. Chairman!

Dear participants of the 67th Regular Session of the **IAEA General Conference**.

The IAEA continues its valuable support and assistance to countries in the safe and sustainable use of nuclear science and technology for the common good.

We recognize the importance of the IAEA's work in accessing peaceful nuclear science and technology to improve the living standards, health and well-being of people.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is grateful to the IAEA for its cooperation and support in improving radiation and nuclear safety in the country and region. We are pleased to note successful national projects related to the development of nuclear infrastructure, nuclear medicine, safety of operation of a nuclear research reactor and strengthening of educational laboratories.

Uzbekistan is satisfied with the successful cooperation with all Departments of the Agency, which is being strengthened every year.

We are proud that the Republic of Uzbekistan is **one of the first** successful countries to implement the **COMPASS** pilot project, which has significantly strengthened our cooperation in the field of nuclear safeguards.

The implementation of the **INIR**, **SEED**, and **ImPACT missions**, as well as a comprehensive work plan for cooperation in the development of Uzbekistan's nuclear infrastructure, technology transfer in the field of radiotherapy and cancer treatment, nuclear medicine, medical visualization and many other capacity-building programs demonstrate Uzbekistan's commitment to responsible development and use of nuclear energy.

The evidence of the strengthening of our cooperation is the accession of Uzbekistan to the international project on innovative nuclear reactors and fuel cycles, as well as the accession of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the IAEA project "**Internet Laboratory of Research Reactors**".

The country's progress in establishing a nuclear power program, strengthening safety measures, investing in human resources, conducting research and participating in international cooperation makes Uzbekistan a new player in the field of nuclear energy.

We highly appreciate the IAEA's active response to the needs of Member States and its readiness to provide support in various areas of peaceful use of nuclear energy. Publication of documents, organization of expert missions, holding workshops and technical meetings in countries are important steps in this direction.

Uzbekistan values long-term cooperation with IAEA Member States in the field of nuclear energy and technology, promoting progress and safety. We call for more representative management of the Agency and, in this regard, we ask to consider a decision to establish sovereign equality in the IAEA of all states. Such a step will allow countries to actively influence the decisions and direction of development of the IAEA, ensuring more effective and representative management within the Agency.

We also actively support nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons, demonstrating our commitment to global security and compliance with obligations. However, it is also necessary to be aware of the existing threats and challenges associated with nuclear safety.

We would like to emphasize that cooperation with the IAEA is a key factor in ensuring nuclear safety and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Let us work together to overcome the threats and challenges associated with nuclear safety and strive for a bright future where nuclear energy will be used for the benefit of sustainable development and the well-being of all peoples.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Agency for its continued support and cooperation, and assure you of our commitment to expand and strengthen our partnership in the peaceful and safe uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you for your attention!