

Pakistan's National Statement
Plenary Session of the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Ms./ Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning/ Good afternoon

At the outset, I wish to congratulate Excellency Ambassador HAM Sang Wook and other officers of the Committee on their election at the 68th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would like to assure you all, Pakistan's full support and cooperation.

Ms./ Mr. President,

The IAEA's work is taking on greater significance as the world grapples with challenges like climate change, water scarcity, energy demands, and environmental degradation. The Agency's initiatives - such as Atoms for Food, which leverages nuclear technology to enhance agricultural productivity; Rays of Hope, focusing on improving cancer care; and Atoms for Climate Change, which promotes the application of nuclear technology for sustainable development - are not only vital but have also gained global recognition. These efforts underscore the critical role of nuclear science in fostering a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend Pakistan's full support to the Agency in the effective implementation of its initiatives to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this regard, I would like to inform that PAEC is employing nuclear technology in multiple areas such as energy, health, industries

and agriculture to ensure the achievement of SDGs.

I would like to specifically highlight that extreme weather patterns caused by climate change and global warming are severely impacting different parts of the world, with Pakistan ranking among the top 10 most vulnerable countries despite its low contribution to global emissions. The unprecedented rise in temperature in Pakistan has left the nation struggling to rebuild and recover from calamities like floods and water/ food shortages.

Ms./ Mr. President,

Nuclear energy offers a promising solution as a clean and sustainable energy source. IAEA efforts to support countries exploring nuclear energy through its clean energy initiative are appreciable. For over five decades, it has consistently proven to be a reliable, sustainable, clean, and affordable electricity generation option, particularly in the evolving energy landscape of our country.

Ms./ Mr. President,

Currently, Pakistan is operating six nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 3,530 MW contributing 17% of our grid's electricity and accounting for 30% of our low-carbon generation. Nuclear power in Pakistan has effectively evaded over 100 million tons of GHG emissions by replacing fossil fuel-based generation. Looking ahead, we are in the final stages of planning to start construction of another nuclear power plant, expected to be commissioned by 2030. Our 100 reactor-years of experience in operating a safe and secure nuclear power program speaks volumes about our competence and commitment.

Ms./ Mr. President,

Concerning public health, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has placed a strong emphasis on the use of nuclear technology to provide top notch health facilities to the citizens of Pakistan. With 19 cancer hospitals serving under its wing, PAEC is significantly contributing to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients in the country. Over 1.0 million diagnostics and therapeutic procedures are carried out annually in PAEC cancer hospitals. In recognition of Pakistan's steadfast commitment to human health, the Nuclear Medicine, Oncology, and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), among the five inaugural centers, was designated as IAEA Anchor Centre under the initiative "Rays of Hope" last year. Pakistan takes this distinction as a pride and a commitment to meet its objectives. I am pleased to share that first batch of trainees have received trainings at NORI under this initiative.

Ms./ Mr. President,

PAEC is utilizing nuclear technology to ensure food security and safety by leveraging its four agriculture and biotechnology centers. The IAEA also acknowledged the accomplishments of our agriculture centers and designated Pakistan's Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) as an IAEA Collaborating Center. Additionally, NIAB takes pride in its role as the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) national laboratory. Last year, NIAB successfully organized a regional meeting on food safety to raise awareness among key stakeholders to promote cross-cutting policy dialogue for food safety and trade. DDG (TC) graced the occasion as chief guest and applauded Pakistan's contributions in the field.

The acknowledgment of Pakistan's expertise in utilizing nuclear technology in line with international standards has not only strengthened Pakistan's confidence but has also revitalized our partnership with the Agency. Pakistan acknowledges, supports, and eagerly looks forward to contribute to the successful implementation of IAEA's major initiatives including Clean Energy, Rays of Hope; Cancer Care for All, ZODIAC, and NUTEC Plastics.

Ms./ Mr. President,

I am delighted to share that our partnership with the Agency continues to grow. As we work closely with the Agency on water resource management, our prestigious institute for nuclear science and technology, PINSTECH, is currently in the process of becoming an IAEA Collaborating Center focusing on water resource management.

Furthermore, Pakistan expresses its gratitude and endorsement for the effective execution of the Agency's new initiative of Global Water Analysis Laboratory (GloWAL) Network. Pakistan looks forward engaging in this initiative and contributing its expertise to fellow member states in this domain, through offering our advanced laboratories and highly efficient isotopic analytical facilities, which meet international standards in the region.

Ms./ Mr. President,

Pakistan has emerged as a key partner in the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Program, yielding substantial benefits from its participation. By aligning its Program with the Agency's Mid-Term Strategy, Pakistan has successfully executed comprehensive projects to attain substantial outcomes. The country is pleased to offer its

expertise in project design and implementation to fellow Member States under the auspices of the IAEA.

Pakistan notes with full satisfaction that the Practical Arrangement signed between Pakistan and the TC Department has generated a range of productive and mutually beneficial engagements between Pakistan and other Member States. The Practical Arrangement has now been further extended by Pakistan and IAEA, in an endeavour to provide maximum benefits to other Member States.

This recognition by the IAEA highlights Pakistan's role as a provider of services and expertise in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. It embodies our commitment to contributing to the Agency's work and strengthening South-South Cooperation under the IAEA framework.

Ms./ Mr. President,

Nuclear Security is a state responsibility and it receives the highest level of attention in Pakistan in accordance with our domestic and international obligations. Five decades of impeccable experience and record of safe and secure operations of nuclear installation has resulted in the establishment of a comprehensive nuclear security regime in the country. The National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS) in Pakistan is the designated IAEA Collaborating Centre for education, training and technical support in the areas of nuclear & radiation safety and nuclear security. NISAS is playing a pivotal role in offering state of the art training opportunities for officials from national and international stakeholders.

Additionally, Pakistan Centre of Excellence of Nuclear Security

(PCENS) is a highly esteemed national institution that has grown into a prominent regional and international hub, offering exceptional nuclear security training. Pakistan is privileged to have the opportunity to host various IAEA activities, where experts from both the IAEA and Pakistan collaborate to provide training to participants from both within the country and abroad. Practical Arrangement between IAEA and PCENS was signed in May 2024. This cooperation will further enhance IAEA's training activities for Nuclear Security in the region.

Pakistan being a responsible nuclear state has established a National Coordination Mechanism to generate an integrated response to mitigate consequences of radiological and nuclear emergencies and has also registered its capabilities with Response and Assistance Network (RANET).

The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) operates as an independent national nuclear regulator, entrusted by the Government to regulate nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear security, within the country. PNRA plays a crucial role in coordinating, and overseeing the administration of safety and security measures by nuclear installations and radiation facilities.

PNRA also acts as the national contact point for fulfillment of obligations under the various International Conventions to which Pakistan is signatory.

PNRA actively contributes to the development of safety standards and security guidance documents by the IAEA. PNRA also engages in bilateral cooperation agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with regulatory bodies of other IAEA member states to facilitate the exchange of regulatory information and expertise.

PNRA also contribute actively in capacity building initiatives of IAEA for the member states in nuclear safety and security.

I would also like to highlight here that on the occasion of IAEA's International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS-2024), Pakistan published the updated version of its Nuclear Security Regime (NSR) Document.

Ms./ Mr. President,

Pakistan is dedicated to empowering its women in the nuclear field. This dedication is evident in Pakistan's Commitment to implementing the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship, an initiative introduced by the IAEA to inspire and motivate young women to pursue careers in nuclear science and technology. Some fellows have already benefited from this program by enrolling in degree program at the esteemed Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS). Pakistan is committed to extend continuous support to this noteworthy initiative. As a Collaborating Center, PIEAS is playing a vital role in offering capacity building in nuclear education at national and international levels.

Pakistan fully supports the Agency's nuclear knowledge and objective of achieving gender parity and emphasizes the significance of ensuring equitable geographical representation within the Agency's workforce. The recruitment of competent and skilled individuals from developing nations can facilitate the accomplishment of this objective.

Ms./ Mr. President,

Pakistan has consistently met its obligations to the Agency by fully adhering to safeguard requirements. The cooperation with the

Agency is greatly valued by Pakistan. We look forward to strengthening and continuing this cooperation to work towards the shared objective of socio-economic development through the application of nuclear science and technology.

I thank you, Ms./ Mr. President