

Statement of Director General of
State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rosatom” at
IAEA Ministerial Conference
“Nuclear Power in the XXI century”

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Mr. Director General,

Dear heads of national delegations,

Dear delegates!

First of all, I would like to **thank the UAE Government** for the organization of this Conference. For us it is especially symbolic that the **Conference is taking place in the Middle East** – the region where many countries have recently taken a decision to launch their national nuclear energy programmes, including in cooperation with Russia.

Four years ago, at the previous Ministerial Conference in Saint-Petersburg, we made a number of vital decisions, and the years since have been marked by many remarkable, milestone events.

In joint efforts we have managed to finally overcome the **Fukushima syndrome**. In the IAEA’s estimate, at present **around 50 countries are expressing their interest in nuclear energy**. New prospects of using atomic energy in remote, hard-to-reach regions are brought about by **small and medium modular reactors**. Demand for the construction of research centres is growing. **Non-energy uses of nuclear and radiation technologies** are playing an increasingly more important role in industry, medicine and agriculture.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There is an explosive growth of power consumption in the world now. By 2040 demand for electric power will increase by almost one third. Yet it is necessary to bear in mind that practically all countries of the world have assumed **obligations to reduce CO₂ emissions** into the atmosphere in the framework of the Paris Climate Agreement.

It is only possible to fulfill these commitments and simultaneously to address the challenge of increased power production through **changing the structure of world electric power production balance**. That said **what the energy of the future is required to be like** can be determined the following way. **The price of the generated energy** must be economically attractive and sustainable over a lengthy period of time, and the means of its generation must be ecologically clean.

Atomic energy meets all these criteria better than any other. At the same time we are far from constituting an alternative for other sources of clean generation. **On the contrary, sun, wind, water and atom**, supplementing and reinforcing each other **must form that green square**, which will become the basis for the future world carbon-free balance.

At the latest IAEA General Conference we laid out the point that **new emphases are needed in the broad agenda of nuclear energy cooperation**.

First, it is the **right reputation of atomic energy in public space**. We have convinced each other long ago that it has no alternative. It is now time to **move forward from public acceptance of nuclear energy to shaping its demand** on the part of society.

Second, it is **safety**. Mr. Amano was absolutely right to underline in his speech that we ought to ensure the most rigid abidance by nuclear safety and security regimes,

as well as nuclear non-proliferation. Of all the spheres of world industry the nuclear energy is distinguished by one of the most responsible approaches and observation of the principles of safe and sustainable development. Safety of technologies and solutions is not just a requirement for us; it is the essential prerequisite of implementing any nuclear project.

Once the choice is made in favour of nuclear energy, newcomer countries are faced with a range of other important issues, such as creating a legal and regulatory base, training of professional personnel, localising relevant production processes. And Rosatom stands ready to lend its shoulder in this. **We have always helped and will help the countries that made their choice in favour of developing nuclear energy.**

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

One of the objectives of this Conference is to determine main priorities of future development. We are certain that **the future of world atomic energy is intrinsically linked to closing of the nuclear fuel cycle**, and fast reactor technologies constitute an integral part of it. In particular, this was confirmed by the International IAEA Conference on Fast Reactors and Related Fuel Cycles last June in Yekaterinburg.

Considering the scientific and technological backlog we are convinced that the **closed fuel cycle** is no longer a distant prospect. And we are basically witnessing the first stage of this project's implementation today. Closing of the fuel cycle will allow peaceful atom to become an environmentally safe source of energy with practically inexhaustible resources for millennia to come. There are all grounds to believe that such a comprehensive product will be offered to the market **within the next 10-12 years**. In terms of nuclear energy, it is almost tomorrow.

Our vision of the key task is to establish such an industrial infrastructure that would be able to ensure drastic reduction of spent nuclear fuel, and a well-

balanced, long-term, recycling of the regenerated fuel components in the nuclear fuel cycle.

Rosatom attaches special attention to developing such areas today – we are creating production capacities for SNF reprocessing in the territory of Russia, we are developing new uranium-plutonium fuel to put reprocessed products back to the nuclear fuel cycle. All of this will permit to ensure demand for **nuclear energy for many decades to come**.

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to cite the words said by the **President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin** at the Plenary Session of the ‘Russian Energy Week’ Forum in October of this year: ‘Existing opportunities, and at the same time, objective problems in energy sector require that we join efforts to be able to move forward. We are ready to cooperate in the energy sphere with all partners concerned on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual benefit. I am confident that we will continue pooling our efforts for the sake of building a stable and fair energy future’.