



AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

at the

61st regular session of the General Conference

of the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

18-22 September 2017

Bismillah Hir-Rahman Nir-Rahim

Madame President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin, Madame President, by expressing my congratulation to your Excellency, on your deserved election as the president of this year's General Conference, as well as other honorable members of the Bureau. I am confident that under your wise and able leadership, this General Conference will yield the expected outcome.

Seizing this opportunity, let me to congratulate H. E. Director General, Yukiya Amano, for his appointment for the third time to lead this very important organization, commending his outstanding leadership in appropriately discharging his great responsibility under the mandate stipulated in the Statute. My appreciation goes to the highly professional and dedicated team of the Agency's secretariat for the efforts undertaken to prepare for this important Conference.

Madame President, Ladies and gentlemen,

As mandated by its Statute, IAEA has been pursuing a commendable task for over 60 years of efforts to promote peace, health and prosperity for the entire humankind through peaceful use of nuclear technology. The Agency plays a key role in maintaining, improving and promoting nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety across the world.

As the world is drifting towards increased insecurity and violence, the Agency is facing a tremendously challenging situation in fully monitoring and controlling nuclear energy and making sure that it is not used in a wrong way. Although the member states' cooperation with the Agency is essential on this very issue, the Agency's role remains indispensable, as provided for in Article III of the Statute.

Being a state party to the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement and the NPT, Afghanistan strongly supports the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone in the Middle East, as a positive and complementary step towards achieving the United Nations' Nuclear-Weapons-Free-World objectives.

Madame President,

The IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme remains very important in supporting the peaceful, safe and secure application of nuclear science and

technology for sustainable socio-economic development and we appreciate the efforts that are being made to further align the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) with the specific needs and priorities of member states.

As a founding member of the IAEA, Afghanistan has started to benefit from IAEA's excellent cooperation as early as its establishment.

With myriad difficulties and conflicts my country has been witnessing for decades, Afghanistan has been able to benefit from the Agency's TC Programme in different priority areas over the past few years, and it also provides an excellent cooperation framework in areas such as human health, water resources management, human resources development in nuclear physics, establishment of a national regulatory framework and energy planning.

The Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission (AAEHC), the main implementing partner in Afghanistan, along with other relevant agencies in the country, is coordinating, with the assistance of IAEA, the implementation of projects, as well as undertaking training courses and capacity-building for the officials from different government institutions.

The establishment of a Radiation Oncology Centre, a Radiology Diagnostic Centre, and Radiotherapy and Radiology Services in Kabul stand as three prime examples of projects with high importance and relevance in the country.

Under the project and with the help from the IAEA, Afghanistan's nuclear act, which was drafted by the High Commission, got approved by the

parliament last year and the draft regulations for radiation safety in the areas of waste management and the transport of radioactive materials, radioactive and radiation sources are being developed with technical support from the IAEA. Such efforts will further improve the legal and regulatory framework, including a regulatory system for radiation safety and protection required for the application of nuclear science and technology in Afghanistan.

Madame President; Ladies and gentlemen;

I am happy to inform the august gathering that the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) was presented at the International Conference on Afghanistan in Brussels on 4th October 2016, where the conference unanimously endorsed this ambitious reform agenda, which aims at supporting the Afghan government and at ensuring continued international political and financial support to bolster political and economic stability, state-building and development.

By presenting the framework, the Afghan government aimed at setting out its vision for the future and to showcase its track record on reforms. It was also an inestimable occasion for the International Community to send a strong political and financial message in support of peace and state-building and development in Afghanistan and to reaffirm its long-term commitment to Afghanistan's future peace, stability and prosperity.

Madame President;

Concluding my remarks, I would like to state that no regional or international body will be successful without honest and full cooperation of its members.

Since the Agency is striving to use its technical and scientific experiments for the benefit of entire human being, we should honestly cooperate with it and make its endeavours successful.

In the same vein, the Agency's stipulated objectives cannot be achieved without full and honest cooperation of its member states.

Fortunately, there is a worldwide agreement and global consensus over this matter.

Let's help the Agency in promoting security, peace, health and prosperity among all nations of the world.

Thank you for your attention!