



Bangladesh

Statement by
His Excellency Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh
at the 61st Session of General Conference of IAEA
Monday, 18 September 2017

Madam President,
Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good day to you all.

Allow me, Madam President, to convey to all those present in this plenary the warmest greetings from the people and Government of Bangladesh and on my own behalf. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to attend this august gathering.

I congratulate you, Madam President, and all other officials elected for the sixty-first session of the General Conference of IAEA. We believe, under your able stewardship this Session will attain its objectives. We assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

I also thank the outgoing President, His Excellency Dato' Adnan Bin Othman for his great leadership to the last session of General Conference.

I take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his appointment for the 3rd time. I extend my heart-felt thanks to him for his outstanding leadership to the IAEA. Our thanks also go to the Board of Governors for their excellent work.

Madam President,

Bangladesh has full confidence in the guiding role of IAEA in coordinating international efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety, security and safeguards in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Bangladesh takes pride in our ever growing relationship with IAEA. Our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appreciates IAEA for its cooperation extended to Bangladesh. As a mark of her confidence and support, she visited IAEA in May this year and attended the Conference on Technical Cooperation Programme. Likewise, the Director General of IAEA Mr. Amano visited Bangladesh for the second time in July 2017 and saw for himself our efforts and progress in the construction of our first Nuclear Power Plant in Rooppur. These visits have added further value to the meaningful cooperation between Bangladesh and IAEA.

Distinguished Delegates,

Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economies of the world with remarkable socio-economic progress in recent years. Our Government has declared 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' with a view to elevating Bangladesh to a higher middle-income country by 2021 and a front ranking developed nation by 2041 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter of the father of our nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangladesh recognizes that use of atomic energy in various sectors with the support of IAEA will contribute significantly in achieving further socio-economic development for Bangladesh.

Excellencies,

Access to clean, reliable and affordable energy is a precondition for sustainable economic growth and improved human well-being - affecting health, education and job opportunities. The power sector of Bangladesh will be required to cope with rapid increases in the demand to support the higher economic growth. Due to limited indigenous energy resources, nuclear power has been identified as a viable component of the overall generation mix for Bangladesh.

Our Government has considered nuclear energy as a safe, environment-friendly and economically viable source of electricity generation. We have started construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the first NPP of the country, under bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Russian Federation. Bangladesh is also considering to build the second nuclear plant in the southern part of the country in future.

Distinguished Delegates,

In implementation of Rooppur NPP, we are closely working with IAEA. We are following the IAEA guidelines for creation of our national nuclear infrastructure and implementing the jointly developed Integrated Work Plan for infrastructure development. We have also started the process of training personnel for safe operation and maintenance of NPP under the 'Nuclear Power Plant Company Bangladesh Limited'- the operating organization, through assistance of Russian Federation. For national capacity building for safe and secured implementation of nuclear power programme, we are also collaborating with India.

Madam President,

I would like to reiterate that in implementing NPP project, Bangladesh is attaching top priority to the issues of radiological protection, nuclear safety and security. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority has been regulating and overseeing all safety and security aspects. It is worth mentioning that our nuclear power generation programme is fully in line with our longstanding position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The IAEA is our main partner for promotion of safe and secured applications of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. Through the Technical Cooperation (TC) programme, the Agency has been cooperating and assisting Bangladesh in human resource development and capacity building for introduction, development and peaceful use of nuclear technology in various sectors such as Nuclear Infrastructure, Livestock, Agriculture, Health, Industry, Water Management etc. The development of human resources through TC projects is a success story for Bangladesh. We hope that such support from the IAEA in various sectors will grow strength to strength in future.

We consider the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) as a powerful tool to promote and coordinate research and development activities in using nuclear technology for peaceful purpose. Bangladesh is confident that RCA will continue to promote regional capabilities and expertise in different thematic areas like: energy, health, agriculture, industry and environment, research reactor, radioactive waste management, nuclear safety and radiation protection. It is my pleasure to inform you that Bangladesh hosted the 39th RCA Meeting at Cox's Bazar during April 2017.

Madam President,

I conclude my statement with the expectation that, this General Conference will bring about tangible outcomes and will shape the future programmes of the Agency and the Member States to make, more and more, the common people the ultimate beneficiary of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

I thank you.