

Statement by the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation

**SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

(September 18-22, 2017)

1. Excellency Ambassador Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson
I congratulate you on my behalf and on behalf of my delegation, on your election as President of the 61st Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Vice Presidents and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on their well deserved selection. I also extend my most cordial felicitations to H.E. Director General Yukiya Amano on his re-appointment for another term. As in the past, we look forward to his dynamic leadership and assure him of our full cooperation for achieving his goal of atoms for peace and development.

Madam President,

2. It is now sixty years since Pakistan realized the enormous potential of nuclear energy for sustainable socio-economic development. We are committed to utilize maximum benefits from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. We now have numerous nuclear facilities for exploiting its beneficial aspects in the diverse areas of power, health, agriculture, hydrology, industry environment and basic sciences.

3. Pakistan has always enjoyed a very productive and mutually beneficial relationship with the IAEA. We have been harnessing the vast potential of nuclear technology - the most significant of which to my country is nuclear power. Due to the acute electricity shortage, we are increasingly looking for greater contribution from nuclear power. Moreover, in this era of climate change, nuclear power is a promising option for countries which cannot afford renewables.

4. Pakistan ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate change on 11th November 2016. We are committed to address our energy needs and remain cognizant of the threat of global warming.

5. We have always endeavored to reap the benefits of nuclear power since 1972, when we set our Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP), which is still in operation after four and a half decades. \in the last one year, we have connected our fourth and fifth nuclear power plants (Chashma-3 and 4) to the national grid.

6. Construction of two other large nuclear power plants of 1100 MWe each near Karachi, is proceeding on schedule. My country has a vision of achieving up to 8,800MWe by the year 2030.

7. We are thankful to the IAEA for providing technical support and cooperation. Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) and Pakistan Research Reactor-1 (PARR-1) at PINSTECH, Islamabad, have aged considerably. Pakistan seeks the Agency's continued support in addressing decommissioning issues of these facilities.

Madam President,

8. The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), set up in 2001 is an autonomous body that enjoys complete independence from the operators of nuclear energy. It is evidence of Pakistan's commitment to ensure transparent and safe operation of nuclear facilities. PNRA, regulations are based on the IAEA safety standards. We are also thankful to the IAEA in its efforts to strengthening our capabilities in nuclear security.

9. Pakistan considers nuclear security as a national responsibility and accords it the highest priority. Pakistan has established a specially trained, and equipped nuclear security force with land, air and seaborne component. A dedicated early warning system provides depth to our security architecture. Continuous threat evaluation and institutional reviews are carried out to keep the response mechanism upgraded. The Pakistan Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Security (PCENS) has been fully operationalized. Training is conducted for national and international participants in the field of nuclear safety, security, material accounting, cyber security and human reliability programme. Collaboration between the Pakistan Center of Excellence for Nuclear Security and the IAEA has increased over the years. National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS) and Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) are also rendering valuable contributions in training and education in various related disciplines at both national and international levels.

10. Pakistan believes that the IAEA has a central role in coordination of international activities in the field of nuclear security. Here, I am pleased to announce that Pakistan will contribute to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund in 2018.

Madam President,

11. A vital service to the nation is being provided in my country, through its nuclear medical hospitals. Eighteen cancer hospitals are working under the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. These hospitals serve more than 80% of the cancer patients each year. PAEC plans to further expand its services by setting up more nuclear medical centers. PAEC is also contributing significantly towards ensuring the food security of the country.

Madam President,

12. Pakistan is committed to keep all its civilian nuclear power facilities under IAEA Safeguards. An agreement has recently been approved for the application of Safeguards to two nuclear power reactors - KANUPP 2 and 3.

13. We acknowledge the great contribution of the IAEA for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation, held in May this year showcased some of the contributions that the Technical Cooperation Department has made in developing countries.

16. In conclusion, let me express Pakistan's appreciation for the positive role played by the IAEA in encouraging the peaceful applications of nuclear technology around the world. Pakistan has greatly benefited from this cooperation, and I am very glad that we have also been able to make some contributions, though modest towards the Agency's activities by sharing our experience and providing services of experts in several technical areas. In order to meet our increasing energy needs and to support sustainable development, civil nuclear power is a necessity for Pakistan. Our national goal remains to keep expanding our nuclear power production capacity. To this end, Pakistan looks forward to the removal of barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation and membership of technology control regimes.

I thank you, Madam President.