



A F G H A N I S T A N

Statement delivered by

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Abdul M. Shoogufan
Director General of the Department for the United Nations and International Conferences
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Head of Delegation -

at the

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of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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**Mr. President,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset, please allow me to express my congratulations to Your Excellency, Ambassador Dato' Adnan Othman on your election as the President of this year's General Conference as well as other distinguished members of the Bureau on their election. I am confident that under your able leadership, this session of the General Conference will yield the expected outcomes.

I also wish to thank Ambassador Filippo Formica of Italy, the outgoing President of the 59th session of the General conference for all his excellent efforts and contributions.

I commend the outstanding leadership of H.E. Director General Yukiya Amano and thank him and his able team at the Secretariat for yet another comprehensive Annual Report.

The delegation of Afghanistan would like to join other distinguished delegations in welcoming Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Islamic Republic of the Gambia as new members to the IAEA family.

Mr. President,

We highly commend the efforts of the IAEA in pursuing an inter-sectoral and cooperative approach in contributing to the post-development agenda and the implementation of SDGs through continued assistance toward developing countries in gaining further access to nuclear science and technologies. In light of the links between the Agency's activities and the SDGs including in areas such as human health, water management, food security, nutrition, energy and protection of environment, the role of the IAEA in the implementation of SDGs remains crucial. We also appreciate in this context the increasing involvement of the Agency in the global development dialogue.

Mr. 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 socioeconomic 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 co-operation as early as the 1950s. Following decades of war and instability, Afghanistan has

been able to benefit from the Agency's TC Programme over the past few years including under the CPF (2012-2016), which 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 have greatly benefited from technical cooperation in the above-mentioned areas including training and capacity-building opportunities through national as well as regional and international projects.

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.

Afghanistan's Nuclear Act, drafted by the High Commission with support from the Agency, was 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 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.

Mr. President,

Next week, we will present the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) at the International Conference on Afghanistan in Brussels. This framework will provide the government's five-year strategic framework for moving towards self-reliance and sustainable development. This framework will also provide coherent guidance on where international support will be needed in the next few years.

We believe that nuclear technology applications in areas such as human health, food and agriculture, water resources management and industrial applications will be crucial in the implementation of relevant national priority programs in Afghanistan.

As efforts to draft the new CPF for Afghanistan (2017-2021) are in process, consultations are currently underway between the Agency and the relevant national authorities in Afghanistan to identify concrete priorities under the new CPF for Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan welcomes the efforts at all levels to further increase nuclear security worldwide. We continue to support the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free-zone in the Middle East. We welcome the ongoing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and we hope that the efforts by all sides will continue towards full implementation of JCPOA. We commend the efforts of the IAEA in facilitating such efforts.

Mr. President,

We are grateful for the support provided by the Agency to Afghanistan over the past few years and we remain committed to further developing the regulatory framework including for radiation safety and protection. Also, it is our hope that we will witness even greater support -- including through the Technical Cooperation Fund -- to the new CPF for Afghanistan.

Thank you!