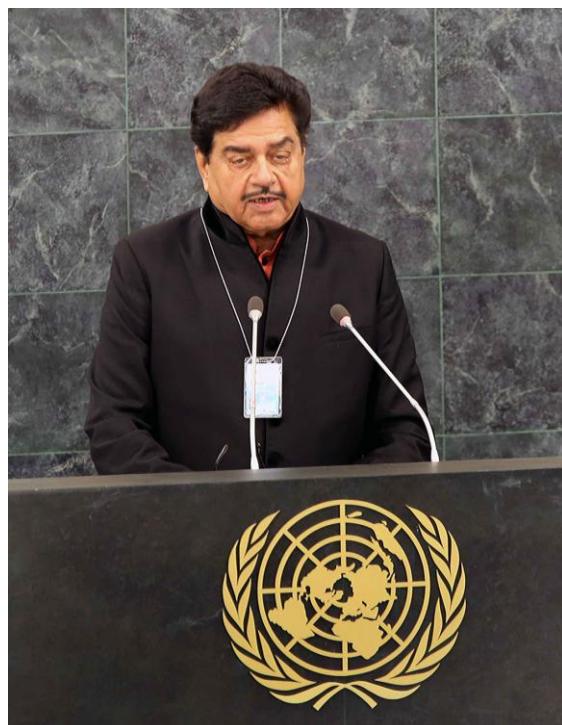


STATEMENT BY MR. SHATRUGHAN SINHA, MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT & MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION
ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IAEA FOR THE YEAR 2012 AT
THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 05, 2013

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the Director General, IAEA for preparing the Annual Report for the year 2012, as contained in document [88]: note by the SG A/68/324.



Mr. President,

The increasing global demand for energy, as well as concerns about climate change, volatile fossil fuel prices and the security of energy supplies remain essential factors in deciding an energy mix for any country. Nuclear power remains an important option not only for countries with existing nuclear programmes, but also for developing countries with growing energy requirements. Since last year two important meetings were held related to nuclear energy, namely, the Fukushima Ministerial Conference in Japan during December 15-17, 2012, and the IAEA International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century in the Russian Federation during June 27-29, 2013. Both these meetings have underscored the role that nuclear energy continues to play in the energy mix of various countries for achieving energy security and sustainable development goals in the 21st century for their respective populations. We note that the Agency projections indicate significant growth in the use of nuclear energy worldwide between 17 and 94% by 2030 .

Mr. President,

The Fukushima accident elicited a global response towards enhancing nuclear safety with Member States reassessing the safety of existing nuclear power plants. While the results of these reassessments would be further refined as necessary, in the light of new information that might emerge in the future, we note with satisfaction that the world nuclear community made noteworthy progress in strengthening nuclear safety in 2012. An overwhelming majority of Member States with operating nuclear power plants have undertaken and essentially completed comprehensive safety reassessments and many have introduced additional safety measures including mitigation of station blackouts and construction of higher protective walls. It is a matter of satisfaction that safety performance indicator data on the 437 operating nuclear power plants showed that the operational safety level remained high.

India is committed to implement the highest standards for the safety of Indian nuclear power plants and the associated fuel cycle facilities. India will continue to participate and assist the IAEA Secretariat in its endeavor to enhance nuclear safety through the cluster of measures it has formulated in the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

We feel that the IAEA should take all necessary measures to allay misapprehensions in the public and Member States about the safety of nuclear power plants taking into account the current advances in relevant design and technology areas. In this connection we wish to acknowledge the visit of DG, IAEA to India in March 2013 where he appreciated the safety upgrades implemented in the Tarapur 1 & 2 reactors. We would also like to encourage the IAEA to make concerted efforts for free flow of latest information, technology and equipment pertaining to nuclear safety among the Member States.

Mr. President,

The nuclear power programme in India is oriented towards maximising the energy potential of available Uranium resources and the utilisation of its large Thorium reserve. We believe that available global uranium resources cannot sustain the projected expansion of nuclear power in the coming decades, without adopting the closed fuel cycle approach and subsequent adoption of thorium fuel cycle.

With its excellent physical and nuclear properties Thorium is widely and rightly viewed as the 'fuel of the future'. India continues to carry forward intense development of Thorium fuel cycle based technologies for demonstration in its AHWR programme. It is heartening to note that one of the Panel Sessions at the IAEA International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century held at St. Petersburg was devoted to the topic 'Drivers for deployment of sustainable and innovative technology', in which we shared our rich experience in the development and implementation of Thorium utilisation programme. Thorium-based fuel cycles and technologies present opportunities for enhanced passive safety features, utilisation of the larger natural resources of Thorium, and inherent proliferation resistance. International collaboration under the IAEA

would help provide a much wider resource base for future nuclear technology development in this direction.

Mr. President,

India is committed to harness the benefits of nuclear energy for electricity production while according the highest priority to nuclear safety and security. India will need to rapidly raise the energy production to meet its growing energy requirements to achieve its developmental goals.

The energy resources at our disposal make it imperative for us to consider all energy options. Presently, there are 21 NPP units in operation in India. Construction of four units of 700 MWe PHWRs is under progress, at the Kakrapar and Rawatbhata sites.

India has setup two VVER based NPPs (2X1000 MWe), at Kudankulam (KKNPP-1&2) in Tamilnadu, with the co-operation of Russian Federation. The first unit achieved criticality on 13th July, this year and subsequently synchronized to the grid on October 22, 2013. The power will be further raised to 1000 MWe in stages. With the addition of KKNPP Unit#1 of 1000 MWe capacity, Nuclear Power contribution in the Country will increase to about 5800 MWe.

India is also setting-up 500 MWe; Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam. Major equipment such as main vessel and safety vessel, primary-secondary sodium heat exchangers, steam generators, other reactor auxiliaries have been erected. Construction is expected to be completed this year.

The Agency performed its first OSART mission to India for Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS)-3&4 in November 2012. The mission was performed using the revised scope and modules updated form the lessons learnt from Fukushima nuclear accident. The mission recognized the strong safety culture present at the nuclear power plant and many good practices. The follow up mission has also been invited which will take place in early 2014. The preparation and planning for inviting IAEA's Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) for peer review of our regulatory system is also in progress and India will approach the Agency with a request to undertake this mission.

Mr. President,

India has been associated with International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) since its inception and has contributed to its progress. INPRO supports Member States in developing and deploying sustainable nuclear energy systems. We believe that this programme has a great potential towards making nuclear energy accessible in a safe and sustainable manner, particularly to new entrants embarking on this path. In 2012, three States joined INPRO: Malaysia, Romania and Vietnam. We welcome the new members into the fold of INPRO. The IAEA, through INPRO, should continue to play a central role in the area of development of innovative technology for safe utilisation of nuclear power.

We fully support other activities of the IAEA undertaken to stimulate innovation in nuclear power through Technical Working Groups for different reactor technologies, small and medium sized reactors and for non-electric applications. The coordinated research projects organized by the IAEA provide an excellent forum for understanding and development of technology.

Mr. President,

Nuclear Energy has a crucial role to play in achieving the objectives of India's sustainable economic growth. At the same time India is extensively engaged in development of nuclear technologies in diverse fields extending beyond nuclear power. This includes isotope applications for improved crop varieties, crop protection and post-harvest technologies, radio-isotope applications for diagnostic and therapeutic uses in health care and, technologies for safe drinking water, industry, etc.

India attaches great importance to the IAEA's work in the fields of nuclear science. We contribute to these activities through participation in the Technical Meetings and coordinated Research Projects and also support the IAEA's programme in nuclear fusion.

The Agency's programme and achievements in relation to nuclear applications in food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, water resources management, protection of the environment and industry make a valuable contribution to meeting the needs of the developing countries. India is highly appreciative of the IAEA's efforts in cancer management, and in particular the Programme on Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). India would continue to support agency activities in these areas, including by offering service of experts and training fellows in reputable institutions in the country.

Mr. President,

There is widespread recognition that the threat of nuclear terrorism is one of the pressing challenges facing the international community. Responsible national action and effective international cooperation are therefore required for strengthening nuclear security to prevent vulnerable nuclear material falling into hands of non-state actors.

India has consistently supported IAEA's important role in facilitating national efforts to strengthen nuclear security and in fostering effective international cooperation. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul in April 2012, India reaffirmed its commitment to supporting IAEA activities in the area of nuclear security and announced a contribution of US \$ 1 million to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund. We have fulfilled our commitment. A collaboration arrangement has been signed with the Secretariat and is being implemented. India is a member of DG's Advisory Group on Nuclear Security and the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee and contributes in the development of these documents

India commends IAEA Director General for organizing the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts. Our delegation to the conference was led by our Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Mr President,

Universal adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and early entry into force of its 2005 Amendment would go a long way in strengthening global efforts in the area of nuclear security. India is party to the CPPNM and is amongst the countries which have ratified the 2005 amendment to the Convention. We appreciate the Agency's efforts to bring the amendment into force and note the increase in the number of states adhering to the amendment. We encourage the Agency to continue its efforts to promote early entry into force of the amendment. We appreciate Agency's efforts in improving the understanding of member states about Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) and to encourage them to join the programme.

Mr. President,

With these comments, we take note of the IAEA's Annual Report for 2012. India supports the work of IAEA and has cosponsored the draft resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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