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Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

INDIA STATEMENT

by

Mr. Anjani Kumar

Counsellor

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Mr. President,

We thank the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for its report for 2018 and also thank Acting Director General of the Agency for providing additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 2019.

The Report of the IAEA is an important publication for understanding the crucial task being performed by the Agency, both in promoting and ensuring, peaceful use of nuclear energy. India has co-sponsored the draft resolution A/74/L.10 on the activities of the IAEA.

We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi as the new Director General of the IAEA.

Mr. President,

My delegation joins others in expressing our deep condolences on the sad demise of Director General Yukiya Amano in July this year. His contribution to IAEA is well known. During his tenure, India brought 12 facilities under IAEA safeguards and signed the Additional Protocol to the India-IAEA Agreement for the Applications of Safeguards to Civil Nuclear Facilities. DG Amano's contribution will be remembered forever, especially his vision of "Atoms for Peace and Development" which has global relevance. India supported designating The Flexible Modular Laboratory at Seibersdorf as Yukiya Amano Laboratories.

Mr. President,

Today's debate is an important occasion to reflect upon the critical role the IAEA plays in supporting countries in their pursuit of nuclear power in a safe and secure manner, in providing technical cooperation activities and in bringing nuclear applications to its Member States.

Nuclear power remains an important option to meet the challenges of increased energy demand, address concerns about climate change, redress volatile fossil fuel prices and ensure security of the energy supply. The Agency needs to continue its programmes of support to Member States embarking on or expanding their nuclear energy programmes and, most importantly, support Member States in enhancing their capacity to build public acceptance for nuclear energy.

India attaches importance to the Agency's work in different fields of nuclear science. We contribute to these activities through participation in the Technical Meetings and Coordinated Research Projects. The Agency's program and achievements under Nuclear Applications in food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, water resources management, protection of the environment, etc. are helpful in meeting the needs of developing countries. India will continue to provide its support to these Agency programs by way of services of experts and offer training slots in reputed institutions in India for experts from Member States.

Mr. President,

India's interaction with IAEA has continued to be significant. I am happy to share that the 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC-2018), a forum for discussions on key physics and technology issues was held in India at Gandhinagar in October 2018. This saw great success as more than 700 experts from 39 countries participated in the Conference.

Out of 19 programmes organized at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership in India in 2018-19, eight were conducted jointly with the IAEA, thus reinforcing India's collaboration with IAEA in capacity building.

I am pleased to share that India's Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) has set a new world record of continuous operation for 962 days on 31 December 2018 while working at 99.3% plant load factor.

Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units (TAPS 1 &2), connected to grid in April and May 1969, have completed 50 years of safe operation. These are

currently the oldest operating power reactors in the world, producing nuclear power at less than 3 cents per unit. Such achievements demonstrate India's ability to design, build and reliably operate pressurized heavy-water reactor (PHWRs) and light-water reactors (LWRs).

India has plan for capacity addition in nuclear power generation and presently we have 21 reactors under the stage of construction and planning. This will help in achieving an additional capacity of about 15,000 Megawatts electric (MWe).

I am happy to share that India recently launched a global cancer care network called NCG Vishwam Cancer Care Connect on the sidelines of 63rd General conference of the IAEA at Vienna in September 2019. NCG-Vishwam envisages integration of the hospitals and relevant cancer care institutes in partner countries with the National Cancer Grid (NCG) of India for bringing a paradigm shift in cancer care in the form of sharing guidelines for management of common cancer, giving second opinion, deciding on treatment, sharing online resources, etc.

Mr. President,

India has made huge progress in utilization of radiation technologies for societal uses. We are willing to share our knowledge and expertise with our friendly partners. The process has already set in through increased interactions and actual collaborations in all areas of nuclear technologies concerning human life, be it power, health, agriculture or human capital

development. We are determined to take this collaboration to a higher level.

India acknowledges the dynamic role played by the IAEA in guiding peaceful uses of nuclear energy, ensuring safety and security, and looks forward to the Agency's continued and vital support for providing a conducive atmosphere for the growth of nuclear science and technology.

India remains committed to supporting the work of the IAEA.

I thank you, Mr. President.
