

# **BANGLADESH**

**Statement by**

**Dr. S. M. Saiful Hoque**

Ambassador of Bangladesh in Russian Federation  
at the International Ministerial, Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century  
in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 27 to 29 June 2013

**Mr. Director General, IAEA (Mr. Yukiya Amano)**

**Mr. Director General, ROSATOM and Conference President (Mr. Sergey Kirienko)**

**Mr. Secretary General, OECD (Mr. Angel Gurría)**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good morning/afternoon to all of you.**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to thank the IAEA for organizing this International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. I hope that this important event provides an opportunity to discuss at a high ministerial and international experts' level on factors contributing to interest in nuclear power and also important considerations as well as different technical aspects involved in the development of nuclear power.

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

We began this millennium with a resolve to eradicate poverty and hunger, to ensure food and energy security, to achieve environmental sustainability and to fight cancer and other killer diseases. Our efforts are gaining momentum every day. We

are working to transform Bangladesh into a knowledge-based and technology driven digitized middle income country by 2021. Energy is a major concern for our development. Overall economy operates at a low level of modern energy consumption. About 40% of the total population does not have access to adequate, cheap and good quality electricity. Moreover, the country has limited indigenous energy resources.

The present Government of Bangladesh under the valuable leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister HE Sheikh Hasina has put the highest priority to the development of energy sector for sustainable development of the country, where citizens will have a higher standard of living, will be better educated, will face better social justice, will have a more equitable socio-economic environment and the sustainability of development will be ensured through better protection from climate change and natural disasters. Presently, the country is evolving an energy-mix diversification, where generation of 10% of electricity from nuclear energy by 2021 through early implementation of nuclear power project is assumed as one of the choices to meet the growing energy needs.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to mention that rare accidents in the history of nuclear power should not encourage of the Member States of IAEA to characterize the nuclear energy as unsafe and unreliable. Nuclear energy has been faithfully serving the humanity from its inception and it will continue to do so from time to come if we want to use it peacefully. Mere fear of risk cannot undermine its contribution. Rather we like to conquer this fear and attain the state of fearlessness in our journey with nuclear energy. More focus on nuclear safety and security will increase the confidence of the people on the nuclear energy.

**Distinguished Guests**

Bangladesh has taken full preparation for implementation of the country's first nuclear project. An intergovernmental agreement concerning construction of Rooppur NPP was signed on 2nd November 2011 between Russian Federation and Bangladesh. An agreement of state export credit necessary to the preparatory construction stage activities of the nuclear power plant has also been concluded.

Presently, Bangladesh is establishing the necessary infrastructure and developing the national strategies to start building nuclear power plant based on the IAEA Milestone Approach in collaboration with the IAEA and bilateral partner .

We have taken steps for signing relevant contracts under the provisions of the intergovernmental agreement in order to accomplish all activities of the preparatory stage of construction of Rooppur NPP in a safe and secured manner. We have enough confidence that the Russian Federation will design the safest nuclear plant for our Rooppur project which will give us and also the global community with a high degree of confidence on nuclear safety and security.

**Mr. President,**

Our Government has given the top priority to the issues of the development of an appropriate nuclear infrastructure necessary based on the IAEA Safety Standards and other relevant guidance as well as international good practices. We have promulgated Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority Act-2012 and established Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority to strengthen national nuclear regulatory infrastructure. Bilateral relationship with the nuclear regulatory of Russian Federation as well as the IAEA has been established in this regard. The country has also a clear understanding of international obligations and the country is fully committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Bangladesh has signed all the major international treaties, agreements and protocols related to the nuclear non-proliferation and verification regime such as, NPT, Safeguards Agreements, Additional Protocol, CTBT, Safety Convention, Convention on Early Notification, etc.

## **Distinguished Guests**

Bangladesh acknowledges the pivotal role of IAEA in coordinating international efforts to strengthening nuclear safety and security infrastructure, in promoting the culture of nuclear safety and security worldwide and in providing relevant expertise and advice. Bangladesh expects an enhanced international and regional cooperation to ensure the highest and most robust level of nuclear safety based on the IAEA's safety requirements.

## **Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

To conclude, I wish the complete success of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation and its outcome would greatly facilitate the shaping of the nuclear programmes of the IAEA and those Member States in such a way that the people may be ultimate beneficiary of nuclear power. Our strong and sustained political leadership and commitment will home the benefits of nuclear power for our people.

I thank all of you for your kind attention.