



Statement

of

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the Islamic Republic of Iran

and

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In the Name of God

The Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your Excellency for your appointment as the president of this important conference. I would also like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Amano on his reappointment as the IAEA Director General and looking forward to continuing our mutual cooperation.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the election of H. E. President Hassan Rohani, the great nation of Iran has created a political epic which promoted further its status in the world and paved the way for a more constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation with other partners and international organizations.

The annual General Conference of the IAEA Member States provides an opportunity to evaluate the efforts of an organization which has been primarily established for accelerating and enlarging the contribution of nuclear energy for peace, health and prosperity throughout the world as enshrined in article II of its Statute.

The increasing demand of Member States for various nuclear applications such as power generation, medicine and agriculture has led to an even greater importance for nuclear energy in recent years. The most important vehicle and statutory function for responding to needs of the Member States is technical cooperation as stipulated in Article II of the Statute. Hence, the IAEA plays a great role in ensuring the use of peaceful nuclear energy for its members. However, an imbalance between promotional and non-promotional activities of the Agency remains to be overlooked, thus increasing serious concerns of developing countries.

In the context of technical cooperation, Iran is ready to contribute. While continuing its peaceful nuclear activities consistently under the IAEA surveillance, my country has in recent decades attained considerable achievements in various fields of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. Iran is prepared, within the framework of the NPT, to

cooperate with other Member States under the auspices of the IAEA. Likewise, Iran expects to benefit from the technical cooperation activities of the Agency in different areas of peaceful nuclear applications.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The bitter experience of nuclear accidents, such as the recent Fukushima severe accident with ever increasing dire consequences has proved that released radioactive particles do not recognize geographical borders and has had unprecedented global impacts. Safety is a global concern, however, safety standardization should take due account of circumstances and characteristics of various regions of the world. Experts from all Member States should be given equal opportunity to have a say in drafting safety standards. It is therefore, incumbent upon the Agency to provide, without any discrimination and misinterpretation the opportunity for participation of experts from all Member States in Safety Standards Committees.

Excellencies,

Despite all constrains imposed on my country over the last three decades, Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) has been commissioned, connected to the national grid and soon will be handed over to the BNPP local operator and thus my people's long awaited aspiration is brought into realization. The plant is modified and upgraded with the latest IAEA Safety Standards and is supervised and licensed by the Iranian Nuclear Regulatory Authority. We have to recall that upon the invitation by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IAEA mission of Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) was conducted in March 2010 and as a result the activities of Iran's nuclear safety system for deploying the relevant standards in Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant was confirmed. It is worth mentioning that in bringing the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant into operation, my government has carefully observed all safety aspects to assure the safety of its nation, especially those residing adjacent to the plant and the littoral Persian Gulf States. In the meantime, as we have stated before, Iran has already begun the constitutional process of joining the Nuclear Safety Convention.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding nuclear security, while reiterating that the responsibility for nuclear security within any State rests entirely with that State, however due to important role of the IAEA in nuclear security, the Agency may contribute to establishing effective nuclear security systems by assisting its Member States through capacity building, implementation of guidance and knowledge sharing, in addition to improving the cooperation and coordination of

international efforts in this field. We are of the view that Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC) has a significant role in facilitating the implementation of the existing nuclear security fundamentals and recommendations. However, it is expected that all Member States should be given equal opportunity to participate in the work of this committee.

Undoubtedly, the best guarantee for nuclear security is a world free from nuclear weapons thus the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their facilities would strengthen nuclear security efforts. In this respect, a clear time frame with a target date of 2025 for the full implementation of Article VI of the NPT, as proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, is an urgent need.

In this regard two principles should be observed. First as it was emphasized by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in its 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 26-31 August 2012: “measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.” And second, the need for the involvement of all Member States of the Agency in nuclear security related activities and initiatives in an inclusive manner.

One crucial issue related to nuclear security which must not be overlooked is cyber attacks. Cyber attacks against nuclear facilities are of the most serious threats to peaceful nuclear program that jeopardize the health and safety of people and the environment and thereby have to be condemned by the international community. While we have been able to manage our own cyber security environment against the malicious acts, we urge the Agency in collaboration with its Member States to develop further reports and assessments in this regard with the aim of assisting its members.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the issue of State Level Concept (SLC), Iran supports, in principle, the IAEA safeguards implementation and its verification activities in accordance with the respective legal undertakings of Member States. However, we believe that the SLC concept is still vague and that there are several ambiguities in the Secretariat’s recent report, submitted for the first time to the recent Board of Governors. This report certainly needs further elaboration and clarification. In this regard, my delegation appreciates the decision by the Secretariat to

prepare a supplementary to the report which would hopefully remove the ambiguities and concerns. We urge the Secretariat to engage in a more extensive dialogue and consultation with all Member States on this matter.

Mr. President,

Despite repeated calls by the international community, demonstrated in the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East, related resolutions of the General Assembly, the IAEA and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation; the Zionist regime, confident of the political and military support of certain UN Security Council permanent members, has neither acceded to the NPT, nor placed its secretive nuclear facilities under the full-scope of IAEA safeguards. In his report on the “Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East”, GOV/2013/33, the Director General has clearly stated that “All States of the Middle East region except for Israel are Parties to the treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and have undertaken to accept comprehensive Agency Safeguards.” Israel’s prohibited nuclear activities seriously threaten regional peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime. More regrettably, the inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented nuclear weapons program of Israel, has given the audacity to this regime to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons which has already been condemned by the Non-Aligned Movement. The unilateral decision of postponement by one of the conveners of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of Nuclear Weapons, planned to be held in 2012, under illusive pretexts was only aimed to protect Israel from international condemnation. Such unreasonable decision is a violation of the unanimous decision made by the NPT 2010 Review Conference and it certainly undermined the NPT credibility as well as 2015 process. My delegation advises the conveners of the Middle East Conference to honor their commitments and rapidly organize the Conference without any preconditions.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, based on its religious tenets and international commitments, has never been and will never be after a nuclear weapons program. In the meantime, my country would never compromise its inalienable right for peaceful use of nuclear energy including enrichment for peaceful purposes under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards. As stated by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei at the 16th NAM Summit in Tehran: “*I reiterate the Islamic Republic*

has never been after nuclear weapons and that it will never give up the right of its people to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our motto is: "Nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none. We will insist on each of these two precepts, and we know that breaking the monopoly of certain western countries on production of nuclear energy in the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is in the interest of all independent countries, including the members of the Non-Aligned Movement."

In recent years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has with full transparency cooperated with the Agency in implementation of safeguards on its nuclear material and facilities. Under our comprehensive safeguards agreement (INFCIRC/214), all peaceful nuclear activities and facilities in Iran are subject to Agency's safeguards including containment and surveillance measures. Since 2003, more than 8000 person – days of inspection including 100 unannounced inspections have been conducted by the Agency's inspectors at Iran's nuclear facilities. Based on the Agency Safeguards implementation Report (SIR) for 2012, Iran has also dispatched more than 4000 accounting reports to the Agency without delay. Such an intensive and frequent IAEA inspections have ranked Iran as second most inspected country in the world. Unprecedented in the history of IAEA, such inspections resulted in the confirmation of non-diversion as it is indicated in SIR 2012 which concludes that "*safeguards activities were implemented for 57 states with comprehensive safeguards agreements in force without additional protocol [including Iran], the secretariat found no indication of the diversion of declared nuclear material from peaceful nuclear activities and these materials remained in peaceful activities.*" According to all reports of former and present Director Generals, all verification activities have been carried out without any obstacle, and reports repeatedly reflect that the Agency has been able to continue its verification activities, and no evidence of diversion of nuclear material to prohibited purposes has been found. For the baseless allegations on the so-called Possible Military Dimension (PMD) issue in which negotiations are under way, we have already declared our readiness for continuation of constructive interaction with the Agency with the aim of removing possible ambiguities.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding, I would like to remind that Iran's new government, has already announced its international policy based on mutual confidence-building and constructive interaction. Such a position certainly creates a conducive environment and opportunity for the

Group of 5+1 to respond to it positively.

I have come here with the message of my newly elected president to further enhance and expand our ongoing cooperation with the Agency and with the aim to put an end to the so called Iranian nuclear file. We hope that this new outlook and approach will be likewise reciprocated by the other side. We are optimistic about the outcome of the forthcoming 5+1 meeting should the two parties join the meeting with good intention and with the resolve to solving the aforementioned issue based on a win-win approach. The world has been suffering of numerous crises that have impacted negatively the international community and therefore it is incumbent upon all of us to do our best to mitigate and alleviate as many of these crises as possible. Our president, on his part, has already committed himself to do his best in realizing this bright and wishful desire and future.

Thank you for your attention.