

STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Reza Aghazadeh
Vice-President of
the Islamic Republic of Iran
and
President of the
Atomic Energy Organization Of Iran**

**at the 46th General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency
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In the name of God,

Mr. President;

It is a great pleasure to attend the 46th General Conference of the IAEA; and as the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on election to the presidency of this session. I am confident that, through your guidance and able leadership and with the addition of valuable contributions of the participants, this conference shall enjoy full success in addressing delicate and important issues such as:

- The inalienable right of peaceful use of nuclear energy and the relevant know-how.
- The enhancement of international peace and security by seeking ways and means of freeing the world of weapons of mass destruction.
- The universal application of the comprehensive safeguards regime without prejudice nor discrimination.

- Last but not least, serious and deliberate vigilance vis a vis international nuclear terrorism

Furthermore, Mr. President allow me to extend my special thanks to Dr. Elbaradei for his comprehensive and informative statement and wish him every success.

Finally, we would like to welcome the State of Eritrea, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Seychelles to the family of the IAEA member states.

Mr. President,

After the end of the second world war and the ensuing tragedy of the atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, atomic energy and the associated nuclear technology have always been at a cross-roads manifesting two distinct features; one in the field of human development and the other in the area of regional and global wrangling. It is indeed very enlightening to note that nuclear competition with the aim of unilateral domination over the world achieved nothing but decades of ominous cold war. What is, however, very discouraging is to witness that despite the apparent disappearance of the traces of the cold war, the sense of authoritarianism and unilateralism still seem very vivid and to be holding sway.

Our debate, Mr. President, is on the peaceful use of nuclear energy or put in other words the positive features of nuclear technology. We firmly believe that the real motive behind the creation of the Agency was basically the intention of facilitating the transfer of peaceful uses of nuclear technology to the developing member states. So far the Agency has pursued its statutory mandate in this regard very faithfully.

We would, however, like to emphasize the importance of staying the course of upholding the principle of balance between the promotional and verification activities. Loyalty to such a doctrine keeps the Agency within its preordained course.

Mr. President,

It is now an accepted fact that among factors strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), is the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) in the world and it is very encouraging to note that a few such NWFZ, have already been created in different regions of the world.

As the Middle East is among the most strategic areas of the globe, the world community has been witness to Iran's call in 1974, for the first time, to establish a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East. Israel, however, the only non-adherent party has so far not been cooperative in this regard. It has consistently shrugged off this essential international call for safety and peace by turning its back on world public opinion and by refusing to even allow the Agency to inspect its nuclear installations. Such an arrogant attitude is certainly not conducive and will most probably lead to an apprehensive paradigm with unexpected consequences in the region. It, therefore, goes without saying that adherence to NPT by all the regional member states is an essential preliminary step towards the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

Today more than at any other time in the past, the world community is in dire need of mutual understanding and confidence building. It is, therefore, very discouraging to witness the attempt by certain quarters to unravel some important aspects of international treaties such as the CTBT, BWC and CWC. Such developments shall send the wrong message worldwide and will most probably set an unwanted precedent for shaking the fundamentals of other important non-proliferation treaties such as the NPT.

Mr. President,

Iran is embarking on a long-term plan, based on the merits of energy mix, to construct nuclear power plants with a total capacity of 6000 MW within two decades. Naturally, such a sizeable project entails with it an all out planning, well in advance, in various fields of nuclear technology such as fuel cycle, safety and waste management. I take this opportunity to invite

all the technologically advanced member States to participate in my country's ambitious plan for the construction of nuclear power plants and the associated technologies such as fuel cycle, safety and waste management techniques.

Mr. President,

It is very gratifying to convey the satisfaction of my government in relation to the major consultative and technical cooperation assistance provided by the Agency to the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant Project. In the same vein, I wish to extend my special thanks to Dr. Elbaradei and his Secretariat for facilitating such cooperation.

Finally, Mr. President, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its Islamic tenets, beliefs and human affinity, has always condemned the possession of weapons of mass destruction.

Eversince the inception of the Agency, my country has maintained its strong and active ties with the organization and has submitted all its nuclear activities including the Bushehr Power Plant Project to the supervision of the Agency. Complete transparency of my country's nuclear activities is a serious commitment endorsed by my government.

Thank you.