

STATEMENT

by

Iran, Islamic Republic of

**at the 47th General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, 16 September 2002**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

I wish to congratulate you and through you all the members of the Bureau for your election to guide the important deliberations of the 47th Session of the General conference in the next few days. My delegation is confident that under your leadership we will work through important issues before us and try to inject more wisdom and rationality in our dispensation of the issues.

I also wish to thank our distinguished Director General for his statement and reports.

Last week a resolution was adopted in the Board of Governors on the nuclear program in my country. My delegation objects not only to the resolution but also to the manner in which it was developed and negotiated. The resolution goes beyond the words and spirit of the NPT and the IAEA Statutes, even beyond the provisions of the Additional Protocol, which we are still in the process of negotiating it. My delegation could not have associated itself with such a resolution, which was pushed to a decision through resorting to false attributions to the Secretariat, arms twisting at many capitals, and stone walling the views and amendments of not only 15 members of the NAM, but also those of others including some of the co-sponsors themselves. This is unilateralism at its worst, that is to say, extreme unilateralism posed under a multilateralist cloak. We believe there is more to this resolution that meets the eye at the first glance. There is an agenda behind it that is conceived in escalating tension and chaos to divert attention from serious issues that deal with partisan politics in the United States.

In our view, such a heavy-handed approach to get a resolution casts considerable doubt on the validity, utility and above all, the practicality of so a resolution. It seems that the resolution has been engineered in such a manner to guarantee its non- or half-implementation. We sincerely doubt whether this resolution intends, as it should, to promote the effectiveness of the safeguards and nonproliferation regime.

We have serious problems with this resolution. From its inconsistency with the NPT to its deadline for cooperation and its venomous language are all problematic. These are our preliminary views on this resolution. We are studying the resolution carefully and will officially respond to it in a few days.

In the meantime, I wish to underline the following points:

- 1 Iran is fully committed to its NPT responsibility, not only because of its contractual obligation, but also because of its religious and ethical considerations,
- 2 Iran's actions and policies are geared to strengthening the safeguards regime, because of strategic considerations,
- 3 Iran's planned nuclear development programme to generate 7000 Mw electricity with secured fuel has factored in consideration of strengthening the Safeguards, through joining the Additional Protocol or otherwise, so as to encourage the international community to give a serious impetus to others in the Middle East to respond positively to Iran's initiative for establishing the Middle East as a nuclear-weapon free zone.
- 4 It is indeed unfortunate to note that despite all our attempts to resolve the outstanding issues, the ever-increasing cooperation with the Agency as clearly reflected in the report, we have witnessed an opposite trend by those who seek to disrupt the process.
- 5 Had the ongoing process continued, we would surely have had achieved the desired results of full transparency and confidence. The Resolution will certainly not help the process forward and is thus seen as counter productive.
- 6 We are here with the message of willingness to find ways and means that would salvage the process and maintain the issue within the framework of the relevant international body, under the direction of the Director General, taking into account

the interpretations put forth by the majority of the Board members on the content of the resolution.

- 7 Being a signatory to the NPT, our right to the peaceful nuclear technology is therefore an established and recognized fact.
- 8 Our cooperation with the Agency within the framework of the comprehensive safeguards shall continue as before.
- 9 As already declared by my government, we shall proceed with our negotiations, with the Agency, about the Additional Protocol.

Mr. President,

We, as a matter of principle, are strongly of the view that the only way to counter challenges that emanate from the existence of nuclear arsenals of the nuclear powers and the proliferation of nuclear weapons is to strengthen the relevant international instrument through multilateral, comprehensive and non discriminatory efforts. We firmly believe that the NPT is the cornerstone of the international efforts to achieve complete nuclear disarmament and to halt vertical and horizontal proliferation of this horrible weapon. Now the essential question is posed as to which country takes the responsibility and the blame of providing Israel with nuclear weapons and thus overlooking its NPT obligations on non-proliferation.

The NPT constitutes an integrated structure, whose effectiveness and realization of its noble goals lie in full compliance with all its provisions by all Parties. The credibility of the NPT as the most encompassing disarmament treaty would be impaired through selective and discriminatory approaches towards its implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President