

International Atomic Energy Agency
Board of Governors' Meetings (September, 2021)

Agenda Item 3: Nuclear and Radiation Safety

Statement by the Governor for India Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar

Madam Chair

We associate with the Statement of the G-77 and China delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Costa Rica and would like to add a few additional remarks in our national capacity.

Madam Chair

Nuclear safety is important for the future of nuclear energy and its numerous applications. India, therefore, appreciates the Agency's continued programme of periodically revising the IAEA Safety Standards, taking cognizance of the current state of technology development, innovative designs and experience of the current range of nuclear reactors. We welcome the Agency's consultation meetings of the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Regulators' Forum Steering Committee and its Working Group in support of the review of the applicability of Agency safety standards to novel advanced reactors and particularly to SMRs.

With a global increase in utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful applications, the safety of nuclear installations has become of paramount importance and in this regard, the Agency has been striving towards promoting and maintaining a strong and effective global framework in nuclear safety. We commend Agency's efforts in assisting member states either considering or planning the introduction of nuclear power or radiation technology, for establishing or strengthening their respective safety infrastructure, regulatory framework and competency in relevant areas.

In this regard, I am happy to inform that India has made a political commitment in July 2021 to implement the Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources. We welcome member states that have joined relevant Conventions in the past one-year, and the non-legally binding Code of Conduct.

Madam Chair

Radiation protection is becoming an increasingly important issue in the context of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM), occupational exposure and medical exposure. India believes that the International Conference on Radiation Safety held in November 2020, along with the imPACT review missions, various national, regional and international workshops, and technical and consultancy meetings organized by the Agency, make a valuable contribution towards enhancing radiation protection and safety of the occupational workers and patients undergoing treatment using nuclear medicine.

Madam Chair

India is pleased to contribute to the Agency's efforts in nuclear safety through its active participation in various relevant Committees. In the past, India has hosted several IAEA Workshops and Technical Meetings and has also offered the services of its experts under Technical Cooperation Programmes.

Madam Chair

With these comments, my delegation takes note of the document under this agenda item GOV /2021/32-GC(65)/7.

I Thank you Madam Chair
