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

Agenda Item 4:

Nuclear Security

Statement by the Governor for India
Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar

Madam Chair

While associating ourselves with the Statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Costa Rica on behalf of G-77 and China we would like to add the following additional remarks in our national capacity.

Madam Chair

The threat of nuclear terrorism is one of the gravest challenges to the international community. While nuclear security is the domain of national sovereignty, this national prerogative demands national responsibility. All States must assume this responsibility and should abide by their respective international obligations to prevent the use of nuclear terrorism by non-state actors. We appreciate and strongly support the Agency in its functions to achieve nuclear security.

India accords high national priority to nuclear security through its strong institutional framework, independent regulatory agency, trained and specialized human resources, and through development and deployment of technology deter, defend and respond against nuclear terrorism.

The Nuclear Security Report this year underlines the Agency's central role in strengthening the global nuclear security framework, by continued implementation of activities under the Nuclear Security plan 2018-2021, assisting member states to enhance their nuclear security regimes, developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance, physical protection upgrades and promoting adherence & implementation of international legal instruments. We commend the efforts of the Agency to achieve the objectives despite the challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard, we wish to express our appreciation to you Madam Chairperson and your team for the efforts to achieve consensus on the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025. We look forward to its adoption during this Session of the Board which will chart out the course for the Agency's efforts and activities on nuclear security for the next four years.

Madam Chair

In the age of automation and remote monitoring, cyber and computer security threats and the use of drones pose new challenges. We encourage the Agency to continue complementing the efforts of Member States in handling these threats through cyber security exercises and computer security and information technology services.

Madam Chair

Physical protection against unauthorized removal of nuclear material during use, storage and transport and against the sabotage of nuclear material and nuclear facilities has long been a matter of national and international concern. We appreciate the Agency's continued assistance to member states with physical protection upgrades.

India attaches high importance to the CPPNM and its Amendment as the only international legally binding instrument to bolster physical protection of nuclear material. India appreciates the steps taken by the Agency to promote adherence to the amendment to the CPPNM among various States, with aim of its universalisation. We urge all those member states that have not yet joined or ratified the CPPNM and its Amendment to do so at the earliest. We look forward to a successful Review Conference of the CPPNM (A) scheduled to be held in March- April 2022. In this regard, we welcome Secretariat's efforts in facilitating the Preparatory Committee Meetings in December 2020 and February 2021.

Madam Chair

We recognise the importance of skill development relevant to the nuclear sector. We note with appreciation the Agency's efforts in developing nuclear security expertise through training, and education under the International Security Education Network (INSEN) which assists the member States in establishing and enhancing educational programmes on nuclear security based on international guidance and recommendations. We further appreciate the progress in establishing the specialized training facility for the demonstration of equipment and technologies related to nuclear security at *Seibersdorf*, Austria. We also welcome the Agency's initiative on promotion of workforce diversity including gender equality and geographical diversity in nuclear security related activities.

We hope that the Nuclear training courses conducted by the Agency, including the training course material will continue to assist the Member States and their competent authorities in further enhancing their nuclear security regimes. The Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP), established by India in 2010, has steadily strengthened its scope

and has been successfully conducting, in cooperation with IAEA, several programmes at regional and international level, covering important and emerging nuclear security topics like insider threat, vulnerability assessment, transportation security, cyber security, detection, prevention and response to radiological threats etc. India looks forward to a stronger partnership between the IAEA and GCNEP, and with other member States in the field of Nuclear Security.

Madam Chair

With these comments, my delegation takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2021 as contained in the document GOV/2021/35-GC (65)/10 and the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025 as contained in GOV/2021/34.

I Thank You, Madam Chair
