

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

Agenda Item - 5

Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology
and applications

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.

1. We appreciate the Agency's role in this area with special emphasis on supporting the development of nuclear applications in Member States with a view to strengthening infrastructure and fostering science, technology and engineering for meeting sustainable development goals.
2. We welcome the Agency's efforts in supporting member states embarking on new nuclear technologies, in addition to those with existing nuclear technologies.
3. We also appreciate the steps taken by the Agency in relation to innovative reactor systems, including fast neutron systems, high temperature reactors and thermo-nuclear experimental reactors, that would lay the foundation for Member States to plan construction and operation of these systems in the coming decade.

4. The support provided by the Agency in relation to the small modular reactors (SMRs), to develop key enabling technologies, would enhance energy availability and supply both in expanding and embarking countries. We encourage the Agency to continue its support in this area as SMRs have the potential to play an important role in diverse applications.
5. We note the Agency's activities in the area of fusion science and technology and take note of the active involvement of IAEA in the 28th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC2020) held in May 2021 in collaboration with CAE and ITER. India has been actively participating in the ITER project and we are pleased to state that approximately 4 km of Cryolines, operating at temperatures ranging from minus 269 to minus 193 deg-C, and about 6 km of return lines for warm gases, have been manufactured in India and dispatched to the ITER Worksite in France.

Madam Chair

6. India believes that apart from the reactor technology, the Agency's programme and achievements under nuclear applications in food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, water resource management, protection of the environment, and industry are important in meeting the aspirations of developing countries. In this context, the Agency's support to Member States in the field of medical and industrial radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals production and in exploring the use of accelerators for various radiation technology applications deserve special mention.
7. We also appreciate the Agency's collaborations and joint initiatives with various United Nations organizations, including WHO, to address the issues of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases.

8. India has developed a National Cancer Grid (NCG) with the broad vision of creating uniform standards of cancer care across the country, comprising of all the stakeholders in cancer care, including cancer centres, research institutes, patient advocacy groups, charitable organizations and professional societies. Within a span of eight years, the National Cancer Grid has become a powerful tool for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of this disease. There are 251 hospitals that are members of national cancer grid. India has also launched a Global Cancer Care Network named as NCG-Vishwam 3C that will allow integration of hospitals and Cancer Care Institutes from partner countries with the National Cancer Grid of the country. The objective is to remove disparity in cancer care globally.

9. We welcome the strengthening of Agency's cooperation with United Nations Organizations and its programs which would serve the cause of addressing climate change in a more effective manner. We take note of the agency's role in COP26, the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century in November 2022 and its efforts to focus on climate-smart agriculture.

Madam Chair

With these comments, our delegation endorses the recommended actions contained in document GOV/2021/27-GC(65)/3.

Thank You, Madam Chair
