

Statement by Dr. K.N. Vyas, Chairman, Atomic Energy
Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic
Energy of India

At the 64th General Conference of IAEA

Vienna, Austria, **September** 2020
[Delivered through video message]

President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Greetings on behalf of Government of India to IAEA and the Member States. Let me congratulate Ambassador Grossi on taking over as the sixth Director General of IAEA. Let me also congratulate Mr. President on your election as President for the 64th GC.

2. India remains committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, both on research and application fronts. As Hon'ble PM of India, in the context of ITER, has said that, this is a relentless human pursuit of knowledge and it is our enduring quest to use science for the welfare of humanity.

3. We are facing an unprecedented challenge in the form of Covid-19 pandemic. Government of India has taken numerous initiatives both bilaterally and multilaterally in mitigating the impact of pandemic. Our Department has been actively participating in national and international efforts to counter, track, study, and strategize on COVID-19 pandemic impact.

Mr. President;

4. We have again demonstrated our commitment to IAEA by placing three facilities under IAEA safeguards after the 63rd GC, viz., Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Units 7 & 8 in December 2019 and PHWR Fuel Fabrication Facility at Kota in August 2020, taking our tally to 29 facilities under IAEA safeguards.

5. I would like to highlight some salient achievements of India which also are contribution to the human efforts in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes:

- i) First, indigenously built 700 MWe Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor at Kakrapar achieved first criticality on 22nd July 2020. This reactor is a forerunner for another 15 reactors;
- ii) India has signed a landmark Agreement with Euratom for R&D Cooperation in the field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in July this year;
- iii) Indian government has announced to establish research reactor in the Public Private Partnership for production of medical isotopes;
- iv) We continued to work with IAEA on several areas viz. cancer care, capacity building and research.

Mr. President;

6. We appreciate the spirit of IAEA that the Agency continued to work effectively during the tough lockdown conditions; we had the privilege of hosting four IAEA teams during this period. We look forward to continue to work with IAEA for providing conducive atmosphere for the growth of nuclear science and technology and its application to enhance the quality of life of global citizens.

7. Before I end, I thank Government of Austria for hosting the IAEA and the General Conference and wish the 64th Conference a big success.

X-X-X