Statement

by

Mr. Khalil Hashmi, Minister,
Permanent Mission of Pakistan
to the United Nations
on agenda item 86, entitled:
“Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency”
69th Session of the UNGA

New York, 03 November 2014
Mr. President,

We commend Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the IAEA for his leadership and value the Agency’s role in promoting the key statutory objective of enhancing the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Pakistan delegation is pleased to co-sponsor the UNGA resolution on the report of IAEA.

The Agency projects that for 2030, the world's nuclear power generation capacity is expected to grow by 17% in the low case and by 94% in the high case despite the justifiable public anxiety that arose in the wake of Fukushima accident. We share this assessment.

Mr. President,

In the past five decades, Pakistan has sought to harness nuclear technology for our development priorities in collaboration with the Agency. Pakistan has also been one of the beneficiaries of the Agency’s Technical Cooperation Programme.

Pakistan is facing a severe energy deficit, as industrial, agricultural and consumer demand for electricity has increased with the growing population. To meet this demand we are tapping into all sources – hydro power, solar and wind power, and nuclear energy. According to Pakistan’s Nuclear Energy Vision-2050, we envisage nuclear power generation of 40,000 MWe.

In Pakistan, there are five operational nuclear facilities which include three nuclear power plants and two research reactors. The oldest of these was commissioned in 1972. Besides these plants, two more producing 340 MW each, are expected to be commissioned by 2016. We have experience, spanning four decades, of safely operating the nuclear power plants. All nuclear power plants in Pakistan are under IAEA Safeguards.

Mr. President,

In the health sector, 18 nuclear medicine and oncology hospitals are providing diagnostics and treatment to several hundred thousand patients each year throughout the country. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has established educational and training programmes in radiation oncology, nuclear medicine and medical physics.

In this regard we note with appreciation, Agency’s role during 2013 in cancer control, mainly through integrated missions of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (imPACT) under which 12 Member States received imPACT missions. In December 2013 an imPACT—Integrated Mission came to Pakistan which visited several nuclear medical hospitals in the public and private sector. We have now received the draft report of the Mission and are in the process of implementing its recommendations.

Mr. President,

For a country of over 180 million people, food security is of critical importance.
In the last fifty years, four agricultural centres have been engaged in a variety of R&D activities leading to higher yields and better quality agricultural products. R&D work in the physical sciences and engineering has also led us to make important gains in water resource management and production of most of the radioisotopes required by the nuclear medical centres and the private sector.

The Agency's partnership with FAO in assisting interested Member States on cutting edge food and agricultural issues, as well as in the areas of pest control, plant breeding, genetics, soil and water management, and environmental protection, as noted in the report, should not go unnoticed.

Pakistan is willing to offer expert services and training facilities to other countries in collaboration with the IAEA.

Mr. President,

Over the past decade, Pakistan's nuclear regulatory mechanism has grown into an effective system underpinned by a robust infrastructure. The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) has based its regulations on the IAEA safety standards. The Authority also offers itself for independent peer reviews. An IAEA IRRI mission of 25 experts from 15 countries was conducted early this year.

Mr. President,

Pakistan lauds the leading role that the Agency has played in harmonizing and coordinating global efforts, in the wake of the Fukushima accident, to improve nuclear safety of nuclear power plants.

After the Fukushima accident, Pakistan conducted successful stress tests of our plants; and put in place a comprehensive framework for all our nuclear power plants called the Fukushima Response Action Plan.

Mr. President,

Pakistan has been an active participant of the Nuclear Security Summit process. The NSS process has been a vital catalyst for nuclear security.

Pakistan attaches highest importance to nuclear security because it is directly linked to our national security.

The IAEA has a central and leading role in the international nuclear security architecture, as well as in the Summits' successor arrangements post-2016.

Over the years, Pakistan has worked closely with the IAEA to strengthen nuclear security. We are implementing a Nuclear Security Action Plan in cooperation with the IAEA.

Pakistan attaches the highest importance to ensuring safety and security of its nuclear programme. We have an unblemished record of running a safe, secure and safeguarded civil nuclear programme for the last forty years.
Mr. President,

Pakistan's nuclear security is supported by five pillars – a strong command and control system led by the National Command Authority (NCA); an integrated intelligence system; a rigorous regulatory regime; a comprehensive export control regime; and active international cooperation.

Our security regime covers physical protection, material control and accounting, border controls and radiological emergencies.

Pakistan has gained rich experience in the field of nuclear security. We have established a Centre of Excellence that conducts specialized courses in nuclear security, physical protection and personnel reliability. We are ready to share our experiences, best practices and training facilities with other interested states in the region and beyond.

We have also deployed radiation detection mechanisms at several exit and entry points to prevent illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials. Pakistan is voluntarily contributing to the IAEA information resources including Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB).

Mr. President,

Pakistan recognizes the important role played by the IAEA verification regime. We have fully complied with our obligations pursuant to our safeguards agreements with the IAEA.

Implementation of regulatory aspects of the Agency is important in its own right, Safeguards play a key role in this regard. At the same time, promotional activities of the Agency are of the highest priority for the developing nations. Equitable allocation of extra-budgetary resources is needed for both the safeguards and the technical cooperation programmes of the Agency.

Mr. President,

Pakistan believes in an equitable, non-discriminatory and criteria-based approach to advance the universally shared goals of non-proliferation and promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Pakistan is an active and mainstream international partner. We are also a state with advanced nuclear capabilities. We reiterate our call for inclusion of Pakistan into Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Thank you, Mr. President.