



Statement

By

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In the Name of God
The Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I am obliged to express sincere gratitude to the Pugwash for excellent organization of the conference and the host country for the warm hospitality.

It is a pleasure for me to share some viewpoints with you in this technically high level conference on important global and regional aspects of nuclear safety and security. I believe that now there is more necessity than ever that speculative gatherings like this can greatly help the global community to have a more clear and balanced understanding of the important issues such as nuclear disarmament and regional and global security.

Mr. Chairman,

With the election of H.E. President Hassan Rohani, the great nation of Iran has created a political epic which has further promoted its status in the world and paved the way for more constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation with other states and international organizations.

The increasing demand of states for various nuclear applications such as power generation, medicine and agriculture has led to an even greater importance for nuclear energy in recent years. Additionally, In view of increasing trend of energy demand, nuclear energy can provide a reliable, diverse, secure and clean energy supply. Furthermore, considering the special climate of some parts of world including Persian Gulf region, the nuclear energy can meet considerably the high demand for suitable water for inhabitants and agriculture irrigation. This can be provided through desalination plants coupled to nuclear power plants.

In this context, positive public attitude towards nuclear energy in Iran has caused the nuclear energy to become a national priority in its industrial development. Fulfilling the expectation of the public request, the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran has ratified a law on “peaceful utilization of nuclear technology” in June 2005. On the basis of this law, the government of Iran is mandated to provide the necessary means for promotion of peaceful nuclear industry in the country to provide 20,000 MWe by nuclear power plants by 2025. It is estimated that till the year 2020, the installed national electric power capacity will increase up to 70,000 MWe from which the nuclear power share is expected to be about 4,000 MWe.

The Government of Iran considers highest priority for nuclear safety in the course of planning and utilization of nuclear energy for protection of people and the environment. In the same context, nuclear security is also considered as an essential element during operation of nuclear facilities in Iran. Needless to say that in some case nuclear safety and security have are interdependent and have impact on each other where each has its own merits and requirements, and despite the synergy, there are areas where the two push towards quite different (and even opposing) directions.

We should learn from the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents and be prepared to face the unexpected situations. In today's tightly-coupled interconnected global system the safety of nuclear power plants is becoming a regional and international concern. Therefore, the global nuclear industry should strive for higher universal safety standards and closer cooperation among its members. The states shall make a balance between their national sovereignty and international responsibility.

It has to be noted that “measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.”

Nuclear Security shall be strengthened through close international efforts and cooperation. One crucial issue related to nuclear security which must not be overlooked is cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks against nuclear facilities are of the most serious threats to peaceful nuclear program that jeopardize the health and safety of people and the environment and thereby have to be condemned by the international community and practical measure be taken to prevent it.

Permit me to use this opportunity to recall the ugly phenomena of terrorism against Iranian nuclear scientists. Iranian people expect that the international community will take appropriate steps to prevent occurrence of such inhumane acts in any part of the world.

Nuclear Safety is a major global concern. The unfortunate experience of nuclear accidents, such as the recent Fukushima severe accident with ever increasing dire consequences has proved that released radioactive particles have unprecedented global impacts since they do not recognize geographical borders. In the course of standardization safety criteria and norms one has to take due account of circumstances and characteristics of the facilities as well the location of the plants.

To strengthen the nuclear safety in Iran, in accordance to “global safety regime”, a number of measures have been taken including capacity building in the regulatory and operating personnel, enhancement of safety culture, close cooperation with the IAEA and incorporation of the latest safety standards in all phases of the life of nuclear installations including design and operation.

Despite all constraints imposed on my country over the last three decades, Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) has been commissioned, connected to the national grid and handed over to the BNPP local operator and thus my people's long awaited aspiration is brought into realization. It has to be emphasized that the plant is modified and upgraded with the latest IAEA Safety Standards, benefiting from the IAEA technical involvement including review of Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) and Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) documents of the power plant. Finally the plant was licensed by the Iranian Nuclear Regulatory Authority pursuant to the most stringent and robust regulatory supervision. In addition upon the invitation by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IAEA mission of Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) was conducted in March 2010 and as a result the activities of Iran's nuclear safety system for deploying the relevant standards in Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant were confirmed. It is worth mentioning that in bringing the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant into operation, my government has carefully observed all safety aspects to assure the safety of people specially those residing adjacent to the plant and the littoral Persian Gulf States.

I deem it appropriate to inform eminent experts in this august gathering that my government has already begun the ratification process of the Nuclear Safety Convention.

Bushehr nuclear power plant is a model of international cooperation in nuclear technology. Initial German nuclear technology was later integrated into the Russian nuclear technology benefiting from advanced features of the two approaches to safety. The Russian expertise strengthened the plant as an added layer of verification of safety. The plant has been modified and upgraded with the latest safety standards.

We believe that international collaboration, share of lessons learned and transparency are three pillars of nuclear safety. Nobody can afford not learning lessons from others experience in running a nuclear power plant. This shall be the commitment of the states embarking on nuclear energy. Free flow and exchange of latest technological information on safety is an essential element in nuclear safety which a collective responsibility.

To provide an appropriate forum for discussion and sharing and resolving common regional nuclear safety concerns, the Islamic republic of Iran invites all the neighbor states and specially Persian Gulf littoral states to have a top level technical gathering on safety of nuclear power plants in the region. In order to show our political determination as a responsible state, I declare the readiness of my country to host a regional or an international conference on nuclear safety to be held in late 2014 in Iran , preferably in historical city of Isfahan, in full coordination with the IAEA .

Mr. Chairman,

Undoubtedly, the international community expects top officials, scholars, intellectuals and civil society to spare no effort towards world free from nuclear weapons, thus, the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their facilities would strengthen nuclear security efforts. In this respect, a clear time frame with a target date of 2025 for the full implementation of Article VI of NPT, as proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, is an urgent need. In the same token safe and secure use of nuclear energy shall contribute to achievement of such novel goal.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Colleagues,

Permit me to conclude by recalling the statement of the Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran at 16th NAM Summit in Tehran: *“I reiterate the Islamic Republic has never been after nuclear weapons and that it will never give up the right of its people to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our motto is: Nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none. We will insist on each of these two precepts, and we know that breaking the monopoly of certain western countries on production of nuclear energy in the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is in the interest of all independent countries, including the members of the Non-Aligned Movement.”*

Thank you for your attention.