



STATEMENT BY MR. MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND
MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 81: REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AT THE 61ST SESSION OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 30, 2006

Madam President,

The delegation of India thanks the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Dr. Mohamed El Baradei, for presenting to the General Assembly the Report of IAEA. The contribution of the Agency has been recognized through the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. El Baradei and the IAEA in 2005. India believes that this tribute was both timely and well deserved. The IAEA is a unique organisation in the UN system founded on a strong science base. As a founder member of the Agency, India has consistently played an active role in the work of the IAEA for promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Madam President,

The demand for nuclear power is growing in step with growing global energy needs. The exigencies of economic development, the finite nature of fossil fuels and concerns linked both to their prices as well as their impact on global climate change add to the attractiveness of nuclear power. The immense energy potential of nuclear fuels, readily available and deployable technologies and the safety and productivity record of nuclear power over the past 20 years are likely to help maintain an upward trend in the demand for nuclear energy. Indeed nuclear power is now an inevitable and indispensable part of the solution to the world's growing needs for energy.

India believes that the Agency should continue to pay special attention to the promotion and development of nuclear energy, especially in areas of the world where developmental needs and aspirations remain pressing and unfulfilled. As the Report of the IAEA notes, 2005 was a year of rising expectations of nuclear energy, which kept pace with the steady growth in the global electricity market. Nuclear power accounted for 16% of the world electricity production with a net increase in capacity of 2300 MW(e) in 2005. The report also notes that of the 26 Nuclear Power Plants under construction, 15 are located in Asia. In India, with the TAPS-4 achieving criticality on March 6, 2005 and TAPS-3 on May 21, 2006, there are 16 operating power plants, with 7 under construction. Further, Government of India has recently approved pre-project activities on additional eight reactor units. With the completion

of all these units, the total nuclear power generation capacity in India would reach around 14,000 MWe. The emerging possibility for expanding civil nuclear cooperation between India and the international community would supplement our domestic efforts to meet the developmental aspirations of our people through additional energy inputs.

India considers a closed nuclear fuel cycle of crucial importance for its well established three stage nuclear power programme with its long term objective of tapping India's vast thorium resources. In the front end of the cycle, our programme is providing inputs to the indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) phase. In the back end of the fuel cycle, reprocessing of PHWR spent fuel has enabled India to successfully operate a Fast Breeder Test Reactor for two decades and launch a commercial Fast Breeder Programme. The technology of reprocessing irradiated Thorium fuel has been developed and U-233 recovered so far utilised to fuel a small reactor. A comprehensive capability in the area of nuclear waste management has been achieved.

India's participation in the International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project is recognition of its advanced capabilities and its record of responsibility in the area of nuclear energy. India has been an active participant in the activities of the Agency under the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), and has applied the INPRO methodology for analyzing nuclear systems for hydrogen generation and in the study of closed fuel cycle using fast reactors. India supports the Agency's work towards the development of small and medium sized reactors for development of technology for additional applications and for expanding nuclear power. Indian experts have also contributed to the work of the International Desalination Advisory Group (INDAG). We have offered to share our experience and identify future areas of work in nuclear desalination. We are also bringing our national commitment and professional expertise to the IAEA activities in the areas of plasma physics and fusion research.

The aging of the work force in many areas of nuclear applications is a matter of serious concern for a number of States. India supports the efforts of the Agency to preserve and maintain nuclear knowledge through all databases and, in particular the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) database that provides free access to students at 283 universities and has over 1 million authorized users. We take note of the support provided by the Agency to 75 students from 33 countries to attend the first summer institute of the World Nuclear University. Given the long-term benefits, we encourage the Agency to continue its support to potential students from developing countries. India has been supportive of the technical cooperation activities undertaken under IAEA aegis. This year India has pledged US \$3,24,800 for the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2007. We have reinforced our financial contribution by providing technical experts, hosting meetings, symposia, workshops and offering training facilities.

Madam President,

India maintains that the promotional role of the Agency is of direct, visible and measurable benefit to its Member States. We commend the activities of the Agency in promoting the applications of nuclear technology in areas of food and agriculture, human health, water resources management, protection of the environment and industry. India notes with appreciation the setting up of the IAEA Nobel Cancer & Nutrition Fund. At the 50th Session of the General Conference of the IAEA the Prime Minister of India announced India's offer of a recently developed cobalt 60 Tele Therapy Machine (Bhabhatron) as our contribution to the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) of the IAEA.

Madam President,

The international community has recognized the need to protect and secure radiological materials because of the increasing global concern that terrorists could gain access to use them. India, therefore, supports the efforts of the Agency towards ensuring safety and promoting a global security culture and attaches a high priority to this issue. India has ratified the Convention of Nuclear Safety and actively participated in the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. India has also participated in the Regional Radiological Security Initiative and has been conducting courses under the aegis of IAEA in India on a regular basis. India successfully conducted, for the third consecutive year, the regional course on 'Physical Protection of Nuclear Installations'.

Madam President,

If we are to be successful in realizing the benefits of atomic energy, we need to act in concert and we need to adhere to our respective international commitments. The IAEA and the Director General deserve our complements for ensuring that the Agency continues to be the global community's platform for addressing these issues in a spirit of harmony and consensus in accordance with the Statute of the Agency. In accordance with its commitment and its record as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology India is prepared to supplement international efforts for promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The issue of assured supply of nuclear fuel in a manner that does not cause proliferation concerns has been attracting attention in recent times. Different countries and groups of countries have proposed various schemes in this regard. A Special Event "New Framework for utilization of Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century: Assurances of supply and Non-Proliferation" was organized along side the recently concluded 50th IAEA General Conference, when these proposals and related issues were discussed. India made a presentation in the event on "The Twin Challenges of Abundant Nuclear Energy supply and Proliferation Risk Reduction – A View". Indian capability in the nuclear fuel cycle activities is well recognized.

India believes that closed fuel cycle is essential if nuclear power is to make sustained contributions at a large enough scale necessary to meet global energy needs. India also believes that reprocessing and recycling of nuclear fuel is essential not only for this purpose but also for the reduction of long term radio toxicity and

security implication of disposal of spent fuel as such. Further, Thorium offers an excellent matrix for efficient burning of surplus plutonium with a much greater degree of proliferation resistance and very low minor actinide burden.

With its well-established high level of R&D capabilities and sizeable pool of highly qualified and trained manpower, India is prepared and offers to supplement international efforts for sustainable growth of nuclear energy worldwide, while address proliferation concerns.

Madam President,

The prospects of rapid depletion of global fossil fuel and the burden imposed by rising fuel prices, combined with concerns about global climate change, have brought out the vital importance of nuclear energy. India believes that it is possible and feasible to enhance the share of nuclear energy as a clean energy source of the future while taking care of the imperatives of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation. India stands willing to support the efforts of the international community and the IAEA towards further development of nuclear energy to meet the growing energy needs of the world.

Thank you, Madam President.

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