Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh appreciates the report on the work of the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, including its sixty-third session held this year.

We recognize the independent and impartial scientific and analytical work done by the Scientific Committee, often - as the Secretary General aptly said - on issues with emotional and political bearing. We thank the Committee for presenting a summary of its recent substantive scientific evaluations in a lucid manner without compromising the scientific rigour expected of such work. The evaluations relating to the various risks and effects of ionizing radiation, especially for public health and occupational safety, should prove useful to the relevant scientific community as well as the general public.

Bangladesh compliments the Scientific Committee for maintaining its focus on its long-term strategic directions, while also demonstrating the flexibility to respond to certain unforeseen situations. The Committee’s follow-up work on its earlier evaluation on the extent of public health impact of the accident in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in eastern Japan has indeed been a far-reaching contribution.

In Bangladesh, as we continue to invest in nuclear safety and safeguards as part of our efforts to further expand the scope of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including through nuclear power generation, we find the Committee’s evaluation...
in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident to be carrying important lessons for all concerned in our national context.

In view of the relevance and ramification of the Scientific Committee's work across multiple sectors, we underscore the importance of its enhanced synergy and coordination with that of other relevant UN entities, including IAEA, WHO, ILO, CTBTO and BWC Implementation Support Unit.

We appreciate the Scientific Committee's recent initiatives, through its Secretariat, to promote further dissemination and accessibility of its work. We thank UNEP for providing Secretariat support to the Committee, and underscore the need for increased voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the Executive Director.

In consideration of Bangladesh's long-running and growing experience and expertise in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, contributing to our national development efforts, we would to wish to explore opportunities for broadening the scope of our engagement with the Scientific Committee. Bangladesh would welcome the opportunity to serve in an enlarged Committee, to be considered during the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly pursuant to its Resolution 66/70. We, however, take careful note of the Committee's observations concerning its optimal size, capacity and alternative means of engagement, and remain open to further informed discussions in this regard. Bangladesh recognizes the critical importance of data collection and sharing for the Scientific Committee to effectively carry out its work, and recalls the invitation to Member States to designate their national contact persons. We look forward to enhancing our contributions in this regard.

To conclude, Bangladesh is pleased to co-sponsor the draft Resolution under this agenda item this year. We wish to thank Japan for continuing to facilitate the work on the Resolution.

I thank you.